

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جودان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية للرأي

AMMAN TUESDAY, JULY 16, 1991, MUHARRAM 4, 1412

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Rao wins confidence vote

NEW DELHI (AP) — Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao won a vote of confidence for his three-week-old minority government Monday after a left-centre opposition bloc abstained. "There is no question of expressing confidence in your government, but we're not going to do anything that will precipitate a mid-term election," Indrajit Gupta, a senior Communist Party member, said during the confidence debate in parliament. Mr. Rao, who needed only a simple majority, won the vote 341 to 111, the parliament secretariat said. The secretariat said 112 members abstained. "The people will give us a shoe-beating if we go to them again (in new elections)," Mr. Gupta said, speaking on behalf of the Left Front, an alliance of Socialist and Communist parties. "We are not going to vote for your government or against your government. We are going to abstain for now." Former Prime Minister V.P. Singh said Friday his National Front centrist coalition also would abstain. The largest opposition party, the Hindu right-wing Bharatiya Janata, voted against Mr. Rao.

Arms: Israel staying in Lebanon

AMMAN (R) — Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens said Monday morning that Palestinian guerrillas in Lebanon would not cause Israel to withdraw its troops while Syria forces remain. "If it were only a matter of the Lebanese Liberation Organization (PLO) and disarming, we would see it as an improvement," Mr. Arens said when asked about the drive by the Lebanese government to extend its authority throughout the country. "But since everything that has been done in South Lebanon has been done under the auspices of the Syrians and under their instructions, they will make every effort not to stabilize the situation there," Mr. Arens told reporters. He spoke one day after Syria said it had accepted U.S. proposals for convening Middle East peace talks that Israel had earlier rejected. Israel earlier this month linked any withdrawal from South Lebanon to the pullout of all Syria's estimated 40,000 troops from Lebanon. Previously it said it would leave when it no longer faced the threat of guerrilla attacks on its northern settlements. Mr. Arens said while government troops had moved against Palestinian guerrillas, they had not dispersed Lebanese guerrillas.

Officials report Arafat's escape in car accident

AMMAN (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was involved in a high-speed car crash while travelling from Baghdad to Amman Sunday, Palestinian officials disclosed Monday. They said his bullet-proof car hit a bump and overturned. "It was a miracle. Thank God he was unhurt," one of the officials told Reuters. Mr. Arafat was returning to Amman after brief talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, their first post-war meeting. "The Mercedes carrying Mr. Arafat was going at full speed when it hit a road-bump and flew several metres into the air before turning on its side," the official said. One of Mr. Arafat's bodyguards, identified as Ashraf, hugged the Palestinian leader to try to protect him. The bodyguard suffered a broken elbow and is being treated at a local hospital. The accident occurred inside Iraq, 160 kilometres from the Jordanian border.

Levy to meet Hurd

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy will meet British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd during a visit to London coinciding with the Group of Seven summit, a foreign ministry spokesman said Monday. He said the official purpose of Mr. Levy's two-day visit, beginning Tuesday, was to meet Israeli ambassadors to European countries. He declined to give further details or say exactly when Mr. Levy would meet Mr. Hurd.

Palestinian wins battle against Jewish cemetery

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A Palestinian and an Israeli peace group have won a legal battle to block plans for a Jewish cemetery on the occupied Arab territories, the group said Monday. Rhassan Al Khatib, a resident of the West Bank town of Ramallah, and Peace Now jointly petitioned the high court of justice to block the cemetery near Ramallah. The petition led the religious affairs and the defence ministries to agree that the cemetery should not be built.

Grenade fired at Kuwaiti firm

KUWAIT (R) — A rocket-propelled grenade fired at the premises of a firm in Kuwait City Monday caused a fire but no casualties, the Kuwaiti News Agency reported. It quoted an Interior Ministry statement as saying the grenade was fired by an unidentified person at a building in Salmiya district. It did not give a possible motive for the attack. Government efforts to persuade Kuwaitis to surrender arms left behind after liberation have been largely unsuccessful.

Mahjoub suspect threatens Mubarak

CARRO (R) — Muslim extremists accused of killing Egypt's parliament speaker chanted death threats against President Hosni Mubarak from behind bars in court Monday. "We started with (Speaker) Mahjoub and our minds will not be at ease until we get Hosni Mubarak's head and those of other leaders," said defendant Safwat Abdul Ghani, recaptured last week after being on the run for almost three months. "Mubarak, O Mubarak, Safwat is waiting you," chanted the 14 defendants standing behind bars in one of Cairo's heavily-guarded security courts.

Extradition of Israeli to U.S. rejected

LARNACA (AP) — A court Monday rejected a request for the extradition of an Israeli investment banker to the United States to face charges of fraud. Nehum Baskievitch, 43, was arrested Saturday soon after his arrival at the Larnaca marina aboard a yacht because passport control police determined there was an international warrant for his arrest. Police sought an eight-day detention order in court Monday, pending the arrival of more detailed documentation from the United States to support an extradition request.

King says no regrets over position towards Gulf crisis

Jordan sought to end occupation and avert war, but its position was misunderstood

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has said that he has no regrets whatsoever over Jordan's position during the Gulf crisis. "My objective and that of Jordan was to avoid war and to reverse the occupation of Kuwait peacefully," the King said in an interview published in the latest issue of Time magazine. He said that Jordan was never for war, and never a party to it, and "we never aware the Iraqi invasion was going to happen."

"We sensed danger and tried to alert everybody to the possibility that something was going to go wrong and we wanted to end the occupation of Kuwait peacefully," the King said. "We were concerned for the human suffering, for the human

and material losses that were foreseeable, for the environmental disaster and for the turbulence in the region that will not be over for a long time," the King said. "We were really surprised that people misunderstood us as we have always been for stability and good neighbourly relations and we always done our best to achieve these things but a majority of the world, including the United States, adopted an attitude that 'you are either with us or against us,' the King said. "This is something very strange that I have never encountered in the past."

"Let me be very very clear," the King said. "We were against Iraq's action in Kuwait and we were against Iraqi intransigence in not taking any of the opportunities to move out of Kuwait and to resolve this question peacefully. We always had the feeling that sooner or later people would understand us if they know the facts. We never conspired against anybody. We fought against conspiracies where they existed in the past, time and again."

"When people realise this they may be going to feel — any decent people would — that they have wronged a country and wronged the people and the leader of those people — a friend of theirs for many years."

Fate of government hangs in balance with the emergence of new bloc in House

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The fate of the government of Prime Minister Taber Masri hung in the balance Monday as the newly-formed, 13-member Constitution Bloc was still undecided over which way its voters would go in the upcoming vote of confidence.

Deputy Thouqan Hindawi, leader of the bloc, held several critical meetings with the prime minister and other senior officials in an effort to reach accord on the vote. But there was no word on the final outcome since Mr. Hindawi was expected first to brief his colleagues in the bloc (a meeting was scheduled for late last night) and then get them to agree on a group decision.

There were indications before the meeting last night that Mr. Hindawi was moving towards supporting the government, but it was not clear whether he would be able to convince the rest of the bloc deputies, a number of whom are ardent opponents of the cabinet, to vote for the government en masse, failing that, to float their vote.

In the aftermath of the Muslim Brotherhood movement's decision to oppose the government, Mr. Masri still needs the support of most members of the Hindawi bloc to secure a majority in the Lower House.

Until last night the prime minister had the solid support of his own National Bloc (17 members after Deputy Sultan Udwan and Jamal Haddad defected to the Constitution Bloc, the Democratic Bloc (nine members after Deputy Ibrahim Ghabashah defected to the Constitution Bloc) and the independent Islamists (six members after Jamal Sarayrah defected to the Constitution Bloc). With the favourable vote of one deputy Abdul Baqi Gammoo, who will be out of the country during the confidence vote, the total favourable votes are 33.

Since the Muslim Brotherhood bloc has 24 members in Parliament (deputies Nayef Abu Tayeh and Ziad Abu Mahfouz have joined the bloc) and can count on the support of several other sympathisers, it would be next to impossible for Mr. Masri to win a majority unless he gained the confidence of the Constitution Bloc or most members who belong to it.

The political atmosphere was tense throughout Monday as ministers, deputies and observers viewed the sudden formation of the Hindawi bloc as aimed at withholding confidence from the government. The situation got less agitated when reports began to filter that Mr. Hindawi's talks with prime minister and senior officials were paying dividends.

"We are expecting the worst, a possible downfall, and hope for the best," a cabinet member was quoted as saying earlier in the day. "It will be a tough test for us and even a tougher one for Jordan's democratic experiment."

U.S.-Soviet nuclear pact likely to top G-7 summit

LONDON (Agencies) — The United States and the Soviet Union are likely to agree in London this week on an historic treaty to slash their nuclear arsenals, according to U.S. officials Monday.

The disclosure upstaged Monday's formal opening of the 17th annual economic summit of the Group of Seven industrial nations.

Iraq should be allowed to buy its needs — U.N. team

GENEVA (Agencies) — A United Nations team Monday suggested a partial, U.N.-supervised lifting of sanctions against Iraq to enable it to meet its most urgent import needs.

It said a large portion of Iraq's population faced calamity as each month passed and suggested that part of Baghdad's assets held abroad be unfrozen or the country be allowed to sell oil.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will join this gathering Wednesday and will have bilateral talks with U.S. President George Bush. Barring an unexpected hitch, they will clinch a strategic arms reduction treaty.

There would then be a Bush-Gorbachev summit in Moscow in late July or early August, the U.S. officials in London added. "It will be a dramatic day on Wednesday," one said.

The U.N. report said Iraq should be allowed to import food, agricultural inputs, drugs, vehicles for the health service, spare parts for sanitation systems and equipment for the electric power and communications sectors.

The report was compiled by a senior U.N. delegation, headed by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the head of U.N. relief operations in the Gulf. The recommendation that U.N. sanctions should be eased was widely expected following the team's five-day visit to Iraq last week.

Mr. Bush reported on progress to an arms treaty and leaders were to discuss Iraq and chart a response by capitalism's "board of directors" to the plea for economic help that "Mr. Gorbachev will bring."

The leaders of the U.S., Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Canada and Britain posed for a group photograph, then opened their talks in the music room of Lancaster House where Chopin once played the piano for Queen Victoria.

The G-7 seemed likely to agree to back up President Bush's threat to bomb Iraq if it does not destroy its nuclear facilities. "We are all very clear, Britain, the United States, France and others that one way or another we are going to prevent Iraq becoming a nuclear power," British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said.

Less unanimity or enthusiasm was evident over providing help for Mr. Gorbachev's stricken economy — although a breakthrough on strategic arms might make the United States more responsive.

Several spokesmen Monday appeared chiefly concerned to explain why Mr. Gorbachev should not expect too much. He could cut arms spending or tap his huge gold holdings rather than seek a restructuring of his foreign debt of \$65 billion, reporters were told.

The trio of European continental powers in the G-7 — Germany, France and Italy — appeared more sympathetic.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said he would support a "substantial easing" of sanctions against Iraq.

But arrangements could be set up whereby Iraq's request for imports to meet its needs would be submitted to the United Nations and subjected to monitoring.

Hammadi expects Kurdish agreement shortly

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi Prime Minister Saddam Hammadi said Monday the "interference" of Western troops in northern Iraq had complicated Kurdish autonomy talks but he expected agreement soon.

"The general trend is positive and I expect that we will reach agreement shortly," Mr. Hammadi told a news conference. "What has been achieved is the largest part of what has been discussed. Only very limited issues remain."

"We should remember the complications that the matters under discussion witnessed, particularly those complications introduced by the interference of the United States and its allies in the north."

Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) head, Massoud Barzani, one of the two main leaders of a post-Gulf war rebellion, is in Baghdad discussing a peace and autonomy deal with the Iraqi government.

The latest round of the talks, which began in April, took place as the United States and its Western allies pulled out of northern Iraq.

Jalal Talabani, the other main leader of the unrest, said in a newspaper interview Monday the two sides were close to agreement despite outstanding differences of interpretation.

Mr. Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said a meeting he had with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Thursday had made him optimistic the two sides could strike a deal.

"When I had honour of meeting the president he made me feel that the agreement is close," he told Al Thawra, newspaper of the ruling Baath Party.

"I will say frankly that I am convinced that the president is pushing the talks towards agreement based on his desire to deepen Kurdish-Arab ties and maintain the unity of Iraq."

Mr. Hammadi said Iraq, which would defend itself as best it could if attacked, was complying fully with Gulf war ceasefire Resolution 687 under which it must scrap all its weapons of mass destruction.

"There is no doubt regarding this issue. We will implement this resolution according to its provisions."

He said Iraq, which initially concealed evidence of three secret uranium-enrichment programmes, had answered all the questions posed by U.N. inspectors investigating its nuclear secrets.

"If they want more information

er's visit would be aimed at clarifying the Israeli position. "Jordan is awaiting further clarifications about the Syrian reply, the U.S. administration's position and the Israeli stand," the minister added.

In reply to a question on prospects of peace in the light of the new developments, Dr. Ensour said: "Everything depends on how one views peace. There is a difference between putting off a just and honourable solution to the problem and reaching agreements in name only without peace based on U.N. resolutions and the idea of exchanging land for peace."

The minister stressed that "peace based on procrastinations and ignoring the basic facts and the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination in their own homeland would be an incomplete, futile and negative peace and will only temporarily delay the coming wars."

On coordinating the stands of various Arab countries with regard to a peace conference, Dr. Ensour said: "Naturally one cannot envisage a conference of such importance without prior understanding and contacts among the various parties. For that reason we welcome coordination among the concerned Arab parties as essential and indispensable."

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters that President Bush and Mr. Baker were hopeful progress could be made as a result of Syria's positive response to the U.S. peace proposals.

Mr. Fitzwater said Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker "are hopeful that

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued on page 5)

Li returns home after fence-mending Arab trip

BEIJING (Agencies) — Chinese Premier Li Peng returned home Monday from a tour of six Middle East countries during which he pledged Beijing would help to curb the arms race in the region.

Mr. Li was met at the airport by Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin and diplomats from his hosts in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Iran, Syria and Kuwait, the New China News Agency (NCNA) said.

During the trip, part of an effort to boost China's image with the Arab states, Mr. Li said Beijing was willing "to play the biggest possible part in pushing ahead the Middle East peace process."

China last week attended talks in Paris with the other permanent members of the United Nations Security Council — the United States, the Soviet Union, France and Britain — aimed at forging a consensus on Middle East arms control.

All five countries are major weapons suppliers to the region. Mr. Li's trip was dogged by reports that Washington suspects Beijing of selling to Syria advanced missile systems capable of striking targets in Israel.

In Cairo, officials accompanying Mr. Li denied that such sales had taken place and official Chinese press reports said his talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad did not touch on military issues.

Despite signs of warming relations between China and Israel, Mr. Li issued a sharp call for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

"The heroic Syrian people are invincible. All aggressors in the world are doomed to failure," Mr. Li said during a visit to the Golan Heights.

A major part of Mr. Li's mission was to try to persuade leaders in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait that China remained a good friend despite its decision to abstain from a crucial U.N. Security Council vote authorising the use of force to drive Iraq from Kuwait.

Mr. Li officially invited both Saudi king and the Kuwaiti emir to visit Beijing.

Mr. Li also used his trip to take swipe at U.S. President George Bush's vision of a "new world order," which Beijing fears may be code for outright U.S. domination.

Mr. Li's statement with Iran's Islamic leaders said "no policy should lead to domination of any one power over the new order."

Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, who accompanied Mr. Li on his trip, said the visit had done much to strengthen China's links with the Arab World.

"Some people thought that China's influence in the region might have been weakened and some countries there might even harbour complaints against China after the Gulf war," Mr. Qian was quoted as saying by NCNA. "All those countries Li visited appreciate China's position during the Gulf crisis," he said.

While it hopes for a peaceful settlement to the Middle East issue, Beijing's role is "a limited one," Mr. Qian said. "The most important thing is that the United States, which has a great influence on Israel, should play a bigger role," he was quoted as saying.

Chinese companies will join American and Canadian companies in putting out oil well fires started during the Gulf war, according to a contract signed Sunday.

The contract was signed at the end of Mr. Li's visit to the emirate, the first ever by a Chinese premier.

The Chinese will start work on the oil wells in mid-August and work on the fires for six months, according to the agreement.

"We are certain that China possesses good technologies for the job," said Kuwaiti Oil Minister Hamoud Al Rquba after signing the contract with the Chinese minister of foreign and economic affairs, Li Lanqing.

Six American companies and one Canadian firm are working on putting out and capping, more than 700 burning oil wells.

Mr. Rquba said 213 well fires have been extinguished and he expects most of the fires to be controlled by next March.

"Kuwait is producing 120,000 barrels of oil per day, in addition to half the production of the neutral zone we share with Saudi Arabia," Mr. Rquba said.

The neutral zone produces about 130,000 barrels a day.

According to Mr. Rquba, the Chinese team will be working on part of the Greater Burghian field. The Chinese said about 53 people will be working on the fires when their equipment arrives next month.

Mr. Rquba said negotiations with Iran were in their final stages, and that when contracts are signed with them and the British, French, Soviets and Romanians, about 1,000 people would be working on the fires.

Israeli news papers predict renewed pressure on peace

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli newspapers Monday predicted renewed U.S. pressure on the Jewish state after Washington praised Syria's reply to its Middle East peace proposals.

Israel has rejected U.S. compromise proposals to bridge the gap between it and Syria, its arch-foe expected to play a key role in any Arab-Israeli peace settlement.

The lone government response came from an official who asked not to be named and played down suggestions the Syrian reply was a breakthrough, saying it contained pre-conditions.

"It is clear they still insist on a role for the United Nations... on making a linkage between the very existence of talks and the question of interpreting 242," he told Reuters, referring to one of two Security Council resolutions specifying an exchange of land for peace.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, in a letter to U.S. President George Bush quoted by the official Syrian News Agency, said Sunday his proposals were "positive and balanced" and formed the basis for achieving a comprehensive peace settlement.

The independent Israeli daily Haaretz said: "Government officials expressed fear U.S. President Bush would use all his weight to press Israel to withdraw its opposition to U.N. participation and periodic reconvening of the conference."

The newspaper quoted another unnamed official saying that President Assad's reply put Israel in the spotlight.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has rejected even a token role for the United Nations in a conference that it insists be a one-time ceremonial event leading to face-to-face talks between the Jewish state and Arab states.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Sunday that Syria's response took it further than it had ever gone before in any peace process.

Several newspapers said Israel expected Mr. Baker to visit the region shortly to resume peace efforts following the Syrian reply.

Mr. Baker has visited the Middle East on four peace missions since the Gulf war but has failed to find a consensus. Mr. Bush wrote to Mr. Shamir and Mr. Assad in early June with ideas for breaking the deadlock.

Arafat stops at Cairo airport on way to Libya

CAIRO (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat stopped briefly at Cairo international airport early Monday and met a Palestinian official aboard his aircraft.

It was Mr. Arafat's first time in Egypt since the Gulf crisis, when the PLO and Egypt were on opposite sides. Only a low-level airport-based employee of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry greeted the PLO chairman and president of Palestine.

Mr. Arafat flew in from Jordan at 2 a.m. (2300 GMT Sunday). After meeting Said Kamal, the senior PLO representative in Egypt who ranks as an ambassador, he left for Libya.

Mr. Kamal had to board Mr. Arafat's Iraqi Airways DC-10 for their 1½-hour meeting. In previous such stopovers, Mr. Arafat has met dignitaries in an airport VIP lounge.

Relations between Egypt and PLO leaders have been abysmal for a year. Egypt led Arab states who contributed forces to the international coalition that with the Gulf war ended Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. Mr. Arafat was among only three Arab leaders who voted against sending troops and supported Iraq throughout the seven-month Gulf crisis that ended Feb. 28.

Mr. Arafat has tried to mend ties with Egypt by sending emissaries. But Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials say the PLO leader is not welcome in Cairo, although Egypt's support for the Palestinian cause continues.

Mr. Arafat met recently with Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki while the two were visiting Tripoli, Libya. And Boutros Ghali, deputy premier for foreign affairs, said he talked with Mr. Arafat at a meeting of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in Nigeria. Neither meeting appeared to have done anything to change the situation.

On Saturday a PLO delegation headed by Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, held talks with Foreign Minister Amr Musa. Afterwards, Mr. Abbas said.

His visits to Jordan and Iraq were the first since the Gulf war.

A senior Jordanian official said early Sunday, "Mr. Arafat has not visited Jordan in a long time and we expect that the talks will be comprehensive and will cover all the recent political and other developments in the region."

Egypt, Jordan, Syria and the PLO should adopt a united position at a Middle East peace conference.

The United States has been trying since the Gulf war to bring Arabs and Israelis to the negotiating table. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker made four trips to the area to push the process forward.

During his visit to Jordan Mr. Arafat called the U.S. effort a "bluff" aimed at helping Israel gain time to consolidate its control of the occupied territories.

"America's efforts are not aimed at achieving peace in the region, they are a bluff," Mr. Arafat said. "They (U.S. and Israel) want time for land, not land for peace," he said.

"They (Israeli officials) just want to gain time to swallow more Arab land, to swallow our holy places and Judaize them," he said after a 90-minute meeting with Prime Minister Taher Masri.

Mr. Arafat's comments were made before the Syrian News Agency reported that President Hafez Al Assad of Syria had said U.S. President George Bush's proposals for a Middle East peace conference were "an acceptable base" for achieving peace.

Mr. Arafat arrived in Amman after a 12-hour drive from Baghdad because Iraq's airports remain closed under the effects of United Nations economic sanctions. He had met with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Saturday, but no details were given about the five-hour meeting.

A PLO guard said: "A little incident occurred with comrade Arafat while en route to Amman from Baghdad." But he would not describe what was reported to be a car accident in which others in the vehicle received broken bones.

Mr. Arafat was uninjured.

His visits to Jordan and Iraq were the first since the Gulf war.

A senior Jordanian official said early Sunday, "Mr. Arafat has not visited Jordan in a long time and we expect that the talks will be comprehensive and will cover all the recent political and other developments in the region."

Israeli activist vows to meet Arafat again after arrest

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Defiant peace activist Abie Nathan vowed he would meet Yasser Arafat again, hours after he was arrested following talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman.

Israeli police held Mr. Nathan for three hours after he flew into Ben Gurion airport from Tunis via Paris. His passport was confiscated and he was released on \$12,500 bail.

"They (the police) took everything. They took hundreds of letters and papers... and they took my passport so I can't leave the country," Mr. Nathan told Reuters Monday.

"But I told them I would do it again," he said, speaking by telephone from his Tel Aviv office.

Mr. Nathan, 64, met Mr. Arafat twice in June and in early July in Tunis after ending a 40-day hunger strike in a failed campaign to repeal an Israeli law barring contacts with the PLO.

Israel labels the PLO a "terrorist" organisation bent on its destruction. Mr. Nathan was jailed for 122 days last year for meeting Mr. Arafat.

Mr. Nathan said he would keep trying to convince as many Israelis as possible to meet PLO officials.

A former air force pilot who runs the offshore "Voice of Peace" radio station, Mr. Nathan has devoted 25 years to his private peace drive.

A 1986 Israeli law bars contacts with PLO officials with a maximum three-year jail sentence.

Mr. Nathan is standing trial for still another meeting with Mr. Arafat held a year later.

He returned to Tunis last month for two more meetings with Mr. Arafat after staging his hunger strike in Tel Aviv to try to change the law. Mr. Nathan says this legislation is a key obstacle to Middle East peace.

As Mr. Nathan got off a plane from Paris Sunday evening, a police officer took custody of him, police officials said.

An officer approached him and said "you are wanted for questioning," said a police official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He put up no resistance and was whisked by car out of the airport to a nearby headquarters in Petach Tikvah, the officials added. Reporters were barred from the area of the plane.

Mr. Nathan was released four hours later, after police confiscated his passport and he signed a 30,000 shekel (\$12,500) bond guarantee, army radio reported.

The report did not say whether Mr. Nathan would again be charged.

Outside the main terminal, several dozen protesters held signs some on Mr. Nathan's behalf and some protesting his actions. They dispersed quietly once he left.

Police warned earlier this month that Mr. Nathan would again be detained for questioning once he returned from Tunis, without saying whether he would again be put on trial.

Turks press anti-leftist push ahead of Bush visit

ANKARA (R) — Turkish police, cracking down on left-wing militants ahead of a visit by U.S. President George Bush, shot dead a man and a woman who lobbed hand grenades at them from an Ankara hideout.

In a later incident early Monday, gunmen in the southern town of Mersin ambushed a patrol car, badly wounding three policemen, Anatolian news agency said.

In the western city of Bursa, grenades slightly injured one person and damaged a police station and a military post.

An anonymous caller to local newspapers said Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left), Turkey's deadliest urban guerrilla band, was behind the Bursa attacks.

In the overnight Ankara fighting, police killed a man and a woman during a shootout in the working-class Ornek district.

The hour-long battle began after police surrounded a building and demanded that the occupants of a fourth storey apartment give themselves up. Instead, they opened fire on the police and lobbed hand grenades from the balcony.

Police said the apartment was a hideout for members of an extremist organisation located after Friday's bloody raids against Dev-Sol in Istanbul.

"The Istanbul operation was very successful and the link ended up here," Ankara Governor Safet Budak told Anatolian.

Istanbul police stormed three apartments and raided five other premises, killing 10 Dev-Sol militants, wounding one and capturing 12, along with three dozen guns, more than 100 bombs, bomb-making equipment, hand grenades and ammunition.

Police are trying to pre-empt any plans by Dev-Sol to disrupt Mr. Bush's trips to Ankara and Istanbul next weekend.

The left-wing extremists had rigged booby traps in some rooms used to store explosives in Istanbul apartments, police said.

State-run television showed film of what it said was a secret sound-proofed chamber dug into the basement of one of the Istanbul buildings for use as a bomb-making factory.

Mr. Bush, the first U.S. president to visit Turkey since Dwight Eisenhower in 1959, is likely to focus on the situation in neighbouring Iraq and the allied force being set up on Turkish soil.

His talks with President Turgut Ozal are also likely to cover the Cyprus problem and bilateral relations.

Preparations for his visit have coincided with an upsurge in violence between Turkish Kurds and security forces in the southeast, where 18 people were killed at the weekend.

In four separate shootings, guerrillas of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) killed nine civilians, five of them children, and two soldiers, but lost seven dead themselves.

U.S. Major-General Jay Garner, task force commander in the allied security zone in northern Iraq, said he did not expect the rapid reaction force to have problems with the PKK.

"The coalition forces are not concerned about the PKK," he told reporters in Zakho Sunday. "They stay clear of us and we stay clear of them. Our patrols (in northern Iraq) spoke to them. It is not their objective to interfere with us."

The last coalition forces were due to complete their withdrawal from northern Iraq Monday, three months after they set up refugee havens for half a million Kurdish refugees.

Dev-Sol emerged in the late 1970s, but was suppressed after the military coup of 1980 ended five years of political violence in which more than 5,000 people were killed.

It revived after several of its leaders escaped from an Istanbul jail in 1987 and has concentrated mainly on revenge killings of members of the security forces and judiciary.

During the Gulf war, when Turkey let U.S. planes bomb Iraq from its territory, Dev-Sol claimed the murders of two Americans in Turkey and a score of bombings against Western targets.

ALGIERS (AP) — Former President Ahmed Ben Bella has urged the government to lift the state of emergency imposed in a bloody crackdown last month on Muslim fundamentalists.

Mr. Ben Bella, the independent country's first president, said that the five-week state of emergency had run its course. "Calm has returned to Algeria," he told a news conference. "There's been a return to normalcy."

Mr. Ben Bella, 74, praised the new prime minister, Sidahmad Ghazali, as being sincere in intentions to work with opposition parties on rules for legislative elections pledged by year's end. The elections would be Algeria's first multi-party legislative voting since independence from France in 1962.

They had been scheduled for June 27 but were abruptly postponed when President Chadli Benjedid imposed the state of emergency June 5 to end violent demonstrations by the fundamentalists.

Initial clashes and recurrent outbreaks of violence between supporters of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and security forces have left more than 50 people dead, most recently one person killed outside a mosque Friday.

Mr. Ghazali has refrained from mentioning the FIS in promises to hold a national conference on the country's future.

Mr. Ben Bella, the country's first president and a leader of the 1954-62 war for independence,

heads the secular, Socialist Movement for Democracy in Algeria.

"This government is sincere when it promises to prepare clean legislative elections," Mr. Ben Bella said, calling Mr. Ghazali's efforts the "last chance to save democracy in Algeria."

More than 5,800 people have been arrested by official account since the crackdown began.

Mr. Ben Bella blamed the fundamentalists for the crackdown, declaring that "the intervention of the army was inevitable to avoid a civil war."

Among those arrested were the front's senior leaders, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj. They face trial by military tribunal on several charges, including organising a rebellion.

The arrests have immobilised the FIS, which was agitating through street demonstrations and strikes for new electoral laws and early presidential elections.

Mr. Benjedid said after imposing the state of emergency that he would agree to early presidential elections, but set no date.

Mr. Ben Bella, who spent 13 years under house arrest after being toppled by a coup in 1965, has declared himself a candidate.

An Algerian radio station meanwhile cited official sources in reporting that constraints of foreign journalists since the state of emergency went into effect have been lifted.

"The foreign journalists will be able, from now on, to go about their business normally in our country," the report on Channel 3 radio said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Goulding in Beirut to discuss UNIFIL

BEIRUT (R) — U.N. envoy Marrack Goulding arrived in Beirut Monday to discuss the renewal of the mandate for the U.N. peacekeeping force in South Lebanon. Mr. Goulding held talks with Prime Minister Omar Karami and was due to meet President Elias Hrawi before visiting the 5,889-man United Nations Truce Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) Tuesday. The U.N. force, set up in 1978, controls an area bordering Israel's self-styled "security zone," set up by the Jewish state to protect its borders from guerrilla attacks. Mr. Goulding's visit follows the expulsion by the Lebanese army of 6,000 Palestinian guerrillas from bases in the south used to launch attacks against Israeli targets.

Iran seeks to curb population growth

NICOSIA (AP) — Clamping down on one of the fastest growing populations in the world, the Iranian government said Sunday that newborn children will not be eligible for subsidies and other benefits if the parents already have three children. Tehran Television quoted Health Minister Reza Malekzadeh as saying the measures would go into effect a year from now. He said the government does not approve of abortions. But he said that several reasonably priced or free contraceptive methods were widely available to Iranians. Iran's Islamic government banned contraceptives soon after the 1979 revolution. During the 1980-88 war with Iraq, Iranians were encouraged to have more children and were given extra food rations as incentives. But alarmed by a population growing faster than China or India, the government changed the rules several years ago. Iran's 58.5 million population had grown at a rate of 3.9 per cent in the past decade, Mr. Malekzadeh said. Growing at that rate, the country's population would double every 20 years. Iranians, living under severe economic strains caused by official corruption, mismanagement and the after-effects of the eight-year war with Iraq, are given moderate rations of subsidised food and other essentials by the government. The new law would scrap those benefits for the fourth child.

Ancient tombstones a puzzle

BAHRAIN (R) — Tombstones unearthed in Bahrain, the site of the world's biggest pre-historic graveyard, are posing an 1,800-year-old puzzle for archaeologists. Six of the nine limestone tablets depict robed figures with their left hands over their hearts and their right hands apparently raised in salute. The tombstones were dug up by a farmer ploughing fields around the Qal'at Al Bahrain (Bahrain Fort) and are thought to date from the year 200 — four centuries before Islam. Archaeologists believe the tombstones might have been those of early Christians or idol-worshippers from Mesopotamia plying Gulf trade routes. The people of the Land of Immortality, Dilmun, as Bahrain was known in ancient times, left behind hundreds of thousands of burial mounds but the tombstones are the first of their kind found on the island. Researchers say they might have been removed and buried by Muslims whose teachings forbid representations of the human image. Khalid Sendi, a supervisor at the Bahrain National Museum, where the tablets are stored, said they provide a rare if puzzling glimpse into the history of the ancient Gulf. "This is the first time that tombstones of this kind been found in Bahrain... the first depicting humans," Mr. Sendi told Reuters. Archaeologists had been digging in Bahrain for decades, trying to unravel the mysteries over the people of Dilmun who dominated the region's ancient trade routes. Dilmun's trade network stretched from the Indus Valley to Mesopotamia at the head of the Gulf and Anatolia in what is now Turkey.

Kabul seeks to 'buy back' rebel-held town

KABUL (R) — An Afghan militia commander says the Soviet-backed government in Kabul has given him the go-ahead to buy back the rebel-held northern town of Khaja Ghar near the Soviet border. Major-General Abdul Samad said he would soon leave for the northern province of Kunduz where he would assemble some of his men and set off for Khaja Ghar in the adjoining Takhar province. "There will be no fighting, we will just negotiate a price..." Afghanistan is like a bazaar; nothing happens without money," he said in an interview. Khaja Ghar, 10 kilometres from the Soviet border, has changed hands several times in recent months, and Gen. Samad said each time it happened without fighting. Gen. Samad said he was confident talks with the Western-backed Mujahedeen guerrillas for taking the town would be easy. "Many of the Mujahedeen now controlling the town used to be in my militia group." The town fell to the Mujahedeen last month just after Gen. Samad left citing problems with other militia and government forces. He said the government did not support him enough so he came back to Kabul. Since then Khaja Ghar changed hands twice. The town is currently held by guerrillas loyal to well-known commander Ahmad Shah Masoud, who Gen. Samad said had bought out one of its security posts. It is this sort of double-dealing that has made much of the international community lose patience with Afghanistan, diplomatic sources in Kabul said.

'U.S. ties no block to Iran-Saudi relations'

LONDON (R) — Close ties between the United States and Saudi Arabia should not impede improved relations between Iran and the kingdom, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Sunday. "Having close contact between Iran and Saudi Arabia is very important," Mr. Velayati told Sky Television's Financial Times Business Report. When asked if Saudi Arabia's close ties with the United States would be an impediment, Mr. Velayati answered: "Every country follows its own policy on the basis of national interest. When we want to have close cooperation it doesn't mean we want to intervene in the internal affairs of other countries." The United States and Iran broke off diplomatic relations after fundamentalist students seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran in 1979 and held more than 50 Americans hostage. Saudi Arabia gave financial support to Iraq during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war. Riyadh and Tehran severed diplomatic relations in 1988. Saudi Arabia is Washington's main Arab ally in the region. "If you want to live in this contemporary world, you cannot be isolated," Mr. Velayati said. "If we cooperate together I think we can be optimistic about the future of regional cooperation." Mr. Velayati also said Iran was opening up for business with the rest of the world.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Documentary
18:30	Salamo Cauche
19:00	News in French
19:15	Anjouhul on Jordanian
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Perfect Strangers
20:55	Musanna in Jordan
21:00	Our Home
22:00	News in English
22:20	Columbo
PRAYER TIMES	
04:01	Fajr
05:34	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:41	Dhuhr
16:32	'Asr
19:48	Maghreb
21:21	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swifeth Tel. 310740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785, 685326	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622266	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assiout International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811205	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.	
Min/max. temp.	
Amman	18 / 31
Aqaba	15 / 30
Desert	19 / 35
Jordan Valley	24 / 39

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 39 per cent, Aqaba 22 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. George Sabouri	776751
Dr. Walid Sabouri	779997
Dr. Farouq Noor	765880
Dr. Jamal Abu Baker	746426
First pharmacy	661912
Fendous pharmacy	776336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Nairoukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	649445
Shmiesani pharmacy	637660
IRBID:	
Dr. Ali Al Omari	(—)
Al Sharra pharmacy	(273825)
ZARQA:	

Court overturns decision to retire police officers

AMMAN (J.T.) — In the first case of its kind in Jordan, the Higher Court of Justice has ruled that a decision by the Council of Ministers, last December, retiring police officers is null and void.

The court based its verdict on the fact that the government decision was taken without due consideration to Jordanian laws concerning the Armed Forces and the public security.

The Cabinet had retired several Public Security Department (PSD) officers, including Dr. Ali Adajleh and Dr. Ahmad Ghwein, on Dec. 25, 1990. The two officers contested the decision at the Higher Court of Justice contending that it was not in accordance with regulations, had no legal justification, was arbitrary and reflected abuse of authority on the part of the government.

The Higher Court of Justice verdict said that, in accordance with the Armed Forces Law, a special committee of senior officers should be set up to examine other senior officers' cases and that any decision should be based on the findings of that committee.

It added that any decision to retire officers not taking into consideration the provision of the Armed Forces Law should be considered invalid and in violation of that law.

IDB to grant the Kingdom \$7.5m grant

MANAMA, Bahrain (Agencies) — The Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is financing imports worth \$172.5 million for 12 member states including Jordan which will get \$7.5 million, according to a bank statement here Monday.

The statement, from the 11-member IDB, also said the bank would give grants worth \$692,000 to two poor Muslim countries: Chad and Somalia.

According to the statement, the grant to Jordan, as well as those to Uganda, which will receive \$5 million and Lebanon to receive \$10 million, will be used to finance imports of crude oil from IDB member states.

It said Algeria would get \$13 million to finance the import of copper, aluminium, petrochemical products and lead.

Pakistan will receive \$32 million to finance imports of crude oil from Saudi Arabia, worth \$22 million, and palm oil from Malaysia, worth \$10 million.

Bangladesh will get \$19 million to finance imports of crude oil from Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates, worth \$10 million, and cotton from Sudan or Pakistan, worth \$9 million.

Media congratulates Petra on anniversary

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief editors of the local Jordanian dailies Monday congratulated the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on its 22nd anniversary and suggested that the agency give more attention to cultural activities rather than economic and political issues.

Petra has no doubt contributed to the development of the Jordanian media in Jordan, despite its limited means, said Chief Editor of Al Rai daily Mahmud Al Kayed.

He said that the national news agency had covered various fields of developments in the Kingdom and its staff had been active in the local press.

Editor of Al Dustour daily Mahmoud Al Shurif wished the agency success in its endeavour and said that Petra needed to give more attention to cultural activities in addition to the socio-economic and political issues.

Jordan Press Association (JPA) President Hashem Khreisat demanded that Petra staff be offered the chance to develop their talents and incentives and privileges similar to those members of other professions in Jordan. He voiced appreciation to the Petra staff for their efforts to cover socio-economic issues of concern to the public.

Minister visits scouts camp

JERASH (Petra) — Minister of Education Eid Dahiyat has visited the Dibbin Scouts camp and inspected the various activities of the participants.

A total of 300 girl guides taking part in the camp's activities, organised by the Ministry of Education, are involved in week-long activities which include workshops on auto-mechanic repair, electricity, first aid and hair dressing among others.

Addressing the participants, the minister said that extracurricular activities are considered a basic part of the education process and there is no doubt that they will be developed in coordination between the Ministry of Education and other concerned public and private organisations.

The scouting movement in Jordan includes national education and various activities by scouts and girl guides who can offer useful service to the country and to themselves. Dr. Dahiyat said. The minister added that the scouts movement is one of the noblest organisations since it gives real education to the youth to employ high morals and ethics in their daily practices.

The minister inspected the workshops at the camp and was briefed on other activities.

In reply to questions by the girl guides, Dr. Dahiyat said that his ministry will be giving more attention to the more talented students in school over the coming years. He also stressed the need for interaction between the school and the home to make the educational process a success.

The minister said that the scouting movement will also be given due consideration over the coming years and it will be encouraged in schools, which should be able to organise scouting camps for young men and women.

Avalanche closes road

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department (PSD) sources said Monday part of Al Adasiyyah road, near the children's forest, is currently closed because of an avalanche. The sources said travellers can use Al Aridah-Wadi Shu'aib road as a substitute road.

Dahabra wins gliding competition

By Munem Fakhoury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Bin Al Hussein and in association with Munther Halasa Establishment, a reception was held Sunday at Amman Airport to celebrate the opening of the summer gliding season organised by the Royal Jordanian Gliding Club.

Basim Salem Dahabra, managing director of Unitech was awarded the No. 1 trophy for winning the first soaring competition. His record was 38 minutes of solo gliding. He was followed by Panos Fariz and Mashhour Nasser in third place, scoring nine and eight minutes respectively.



Basim Dahabra
nine and eight minutes respectively.



SEMINAR REVIEWS MEDICAL RESEARCH: The University of Jordan Monday held its 11th scientific day during which four sessions were held to review 20 University's vice president Mideh Tarawneh, Dean of Scientific Research Humam Ghassib and Mohammad Al Khatib, who served as rapporteur to the Scientific Research Committee, addressed the session. Dr. Tarawneh presented a number of university staff with awards and announced the promotion of four of them to the position of professor.

Doctors' committee satisfied with government's efforts in health field

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government's declared intention to improve working conditions of doctors employed by the Health Ministry at hospitals and health centres received Monday a warm welcome from a committee representing government doctors in Jordan.

What the government announced about improvements in full harmony with the aspirations of the government doctors, especially introducing improvements to doctors' status and ensuring fairness in rewarding doctors for their efforts, the committee said in a statement quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Committee representatives, who visited Petra headquarters, said they appreciated and thanked the government for its efforts to meet doctors' demands and for giving them priority over other issues.

They said that the government's plans had been encouraging to the doctors and the move would have a positive impact on the doctors' performance, to be reflected on the general health services.

Last week, doctors and specialists working for the Health Ministry complained that they were overloaded with work while receiving low salaries and no incentives to encourage them to continue.

The Ministry of Health employs 1,300 doctors and specialists at hospitals and health centres. Compared to their colleagues in private hospitals and those run by the Armed Forces, they are underpaid despite providing service 24 hours a day, doctors working at Al Bashir Government Hospital said.

In his government policy statement before Parliament last Thursday, Prime Minister Taher Masri said that the government would be fair and just in the distribution of health services to all governorates.

He said the government would improve work at hospitals and health centres in the rural and badia regions and would pave the way for the application of a comprehensive health insurance plan for all citizens. The prime minister promised to offer training to staff at hospitals and health centres and financial incentives in order to improve services.

In its statements to Petra, the doctors' committee said that the government had accepted their demands and promised to look into the pay scale. They said they were especially satisfied with the pledge that equality would prevail among doctors and that moral and financial incentives would be offered to them.

The committee, which was formed a month ago, submitted demands for better pay and improvements to working conditions to the health minister who has already embarked on tours of various hospitals and health centres to get a first hand information on the situation.

Road project nears completion; engineers offered special training

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Saad Hayel Surour Monday inspected work on the Naour-Dead Sea road and was briefed on the third and fourth stages of the project currently being implemented by the ministry.

Obstacles impeding work on the project were discussed and intensified efforts were demanded by the minister.

Work on the fourth stage of the project, which began in April 1988, to build a stretch of 18.2 kilometres at the cost of JD 7.5 million, is now almost finished. The ministry is to set up a special committee to inspect the work before the road is formally announced to be completed.

Work on the third stage of the project, which began early last year to build a stretch of 7.6 kilometres at the cost of JD 8.5 million, is only 20 per cent completed.

The first two stages of the four-stage project were completed earlier. The whole project, which is being implemented with partial financing from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), will facilitate the flow of traffic on the Amman-Jordan Valley route, help speed up the transportation of agricultural products and stimulate the tourism industry.

In another development, the Ministry of Public Works and Housing announced Monday that it was implementing a training programme for engineers and technicians in quality control and laboratory testing of various materials used in the construction business.

A statement said that the programme was divided into stages, and the participants would have theoretical as well as practical training. After completing the programme they will be awarded diplomas.

The first stage lasts for two to three months during which the participants are lectured. The second stage includes practical experiments under the supervision of experts, while the third stage involves evaluation of the engineers' work.

According to the statement, ministry departments in the provinces as well as the ministry itself are offering the engineers the chance to obtain training in this field. Thirty engineers have completed the programme.

Committee discusses agricultural issues, rescheduling farmers' debts

AMMAN (J.T.) — A ministerial economic committee held its first meeting Monday to review agricultural matters and rescheduling of farmers' debts.

A statement said that the committee, chaired by Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh, discussed a recommendation by Minister of Agriculture Subhi Al Qasem about a loan to be given to the Jordanian Poultry Marketing Company. It recommended that the Cabinet approve a JD 500,000 loan to the company, with government guarantees, to enable it to stabilise poultry prices for producers and consumers.

In his government policy statement to Parliament last week, Mr. Masri said that the government had plans to deal with problems plaguing the country's agricultural sector. He said water shortages, water pollution, debts on small farms and marketing of agricultural produce will all be addressed.

The prime minister said that the government planned to draw up an integrated agricultural strategy aimed at creating a proper climate for farming. The strategy will also develop water resources, boost agricultural production and strive to open new markets abroad.

IMPORTANT
TO ALL USERS
OF PC'S AND APPLE COMPUTERS

PLI
REMOVABLE
Hard Disk

- ✓ real hard disk (not a tape)
- ✓ fast access time, 20 ms
- ✓ high quality manufacturing
- ✓ full support available
- ✓ opens unlimited storage
- ✓ easy to install

Call General Computers Corporation

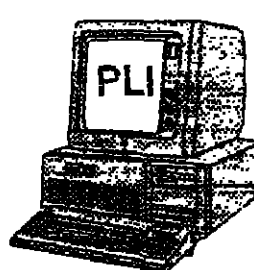
olivetti

Mitsui

Aztech

Tel 649760

Amman, Jordan



Kingdom prepares to mark 40th anniversary of the death of King Abdullah

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Saturday will mark the 40th anniversary of the death of King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, who fell martyr while performing prayers at Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem in 1951.

In memory of the late King, Minister of Culture and Information Khaled Al Karaki set up a committee to present to the Jordanian public a special programme about the King's services to his people and efforts to serve the Arab nation at large.

According to a statement from the Ministry of Information, the committee is made up of the directors of the Jordan News Agency, Petra; the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation; the secretary general of the Ministry of Culture and Information; the advisor to the minister of culture and the director of Arabic programmes at Radio Jordan.

The statement said that the programme would include a number of literary, artistic and cultural events to shed light on the life and work of the late king in various fields.

King Abdullah played a major role in the Arab liberation movement that began in the early 20th century. In 1916, when the Great Arab Revolt was launched by his father, Sharif Hussein Ben Ali of Mecca, the young prince led the Arab army in battle against the Ottoman garrison in Taif, Saudi Arabia and headed the army that proceeded to the east to liberate Medina.

King Abdullah also played a major role in the political arena and took part in the talks held between his father and the allied armies.

When the French occupied Damascus in 1921, the young prince came to Ma'an, where the historical event of establishing the Emirate of Trans-Jordan took place.



From the very day he was proclaimed King, the Arab leader defended the Arab identity of Palestine and sought to rally Arab ranks and coordinate Arab stands to preserve unity of the Arab soil, destiny and objectives.

King Abdullah led the Arab armies in the struggle to save Palestine from Zionist occupation following the withdrawal of British mandate forces from Palestine in 1948. The Jordanian army, despite its limited number and resources, succeeded in liberating Al Aqsa Mosque, Arab Jerusalem and the entire West Bank from Israeli occupation.

In 1950, King Abdullah responded to the call by Palestinian leaders to unify the East and West Banks and announced the unity of the two banks in April 1950.

Interpol offices around the world asked to apprehend Petra Bank case suspect

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Interpol office at the Public Security Department (PSD) has requested Interpol offices around the world to apprehend Dr. Ahmad Chalabi, former chairman of the board of directors of the now defunct Petra Bank.

Office sources said that the cables sent out to these offices requested that Dr. Chalabi be turned over to the concerned Jordanian authorities so that he can stand trial for embezzlement, abuse of trust forgery and for fleeing the country.

Dr. Chalabi is the main defendant in the Petra Bank case, which has been under security by the Military Court for the past two months.

Assets owned by Dr. Chalabi, members of his family and other key defendants in the case have been confiscated by a committee in charge of liquidating the bank.

Court sources said the request was issued after none of the Chalabi family members responded to summonses to appear before the liquidation committee.

The cases involve charges of embezzlement of depositors funds and speculation with the Jordanian currency and shares.

Dr. Chalabi, an Iraqi born banker, left Jordan in August 1989, a few days after the Economic Security Committee ordered the take over of the financially troubled Petra Bank as well as the Jordan Gulf Bank.

Court sources said that the court had decided to postpone examining the cases of the other defendants in the Petra Bank case until September because of the judges' summer holiday.

The official sources, said the Military Court had referred a number of cases to the prosecutor general pending the creation of the projected state security court.

EXECUTIVE EMPLOYMENT VACANCY

A leading and progressive financial and development company, requires a senior executive, with vast experience in banking and financial fields.

- 1- More than ten years experience.
- 2- Familiar with the Jordanian market.

Potential candidates please write (in full confidence) with credentials and C.V. to:

**P.O. Box 811665, Jabal Amman
Amman — Jordan.**
(Applications in handwriting).

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1973

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Bloc with murky aims?

THE FORMATION of the 13-member Constitution Bloc at the Lower House of Parliament Sunday, on the eve of the House's confidence session, can tip the scale in favour of the government or contribute to its downfall. If, as was speculated throughout yesterday, the group of 13 has been formed purely to oppose the cabinet, then with the solid votes of the Muslim Brotherhood and their sympathisers the chances of Mr. Masri winning confidence are indeed slim. Jordan would have its first political crisis since 1964, when the House downed the government of Prime Minister Samir Rifai and Parliament was subsequently dissolved.

Despite the Brotherhood's genuine ideological differences with the government, it has become increasingly clear that if this government is going to fail it will not be for ideological or political reasons alone but for personal reasons and vendettas as well. It will have to be noted that this new Constitution Bloc groups pre-establishment figures who served in the pre-democratic era and some of them share in the responsibility for many of the country's economic and political ills. If they decide now that this government is not theirs and they want to oppose it for no reason other than that they were not included in it, then they would open the door for all kinds of accusations against them. If they and like-minded people cannot contribute to solving the country's problems or to enhancing democracy as they can all too easily do by giving this clean and honest government the benefit of the doubt, then it would be fair to say that they themselves should not have been given the chance to be members of the government in the first place. It would be indeed tragic if this group of people voted the Masri team out simply because many years of ministerial posts were not enough to quench their thirst for power. Mr. Masri and his team clearly understand the Muslim Brotherhood's decision to oppose them as being justified on the grounds that the Brotherhood represents something different from what this government stands for. But in this vein it is only legitimate to ask whether the leadership and members of the Constitution Bloc are so separated from the government by ideological grounds as to stand on the side of the Brotherhood on this one. Are they serious politicians or a bunch of opportunists? Are they seeking the interests of the country or just running after ministerial posts? Might it not be a good idea for Mr. Masri to reshuffle his cabinet, enlarge it to include 41 deputies so that all those parliamentarians who want to cling to power for ever can join the government and give it their votes?

We hope reason will prevail amongst the thirteen, and if they have a difference with the government to spell it out.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IN VIEW of the open U.S. threats to Iraq, it seems that Washington is rallying Paris, London and the Zionist enemy behind it in an open defiance of the Arab World, with the aim of humiliating the Arabs and depriving them of the means to defend themselves from future Israeli aggressions, said Al Rai Arabic daily Monday. The paper said that Washington and its allies were driven by their hatred for the Arabs to launch a fresh aggression on Iraq based on falsehoods and a distortion of all values and principles and in flagrant violation of international legitimacy. The paper noted that the U.S. is intent on starving the Iraqi people and bent on evil means of destroying their will of resistance so as to serve the interests of world Zionism. The paper lamented the Arab World's silence over the open threats to their sister country and over the Arab League's passive attitude. It said no voice has risen from the non-aligned countries or the members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference in defence of Iraq and its people who are now facing a new form of injustice and aggression. What the Arabs are facing now, the paper said, is not the implementation of international legitimacy, the liberation of Kuwait or even the destruction of Iraq, but rather a total humiliation of the Arab Nation.

Al Dustour daily said that Iraq had done well in calling for an urgent meeting by the Arab foreign ministers in order to examine the present U.S. threats to the Iraqi people. Although we believe that the Iraqi call will fall on deaf Arab ears, yet it was useful to make the call to the Arab countries represented by their Arab League in Cairo which has so far done nothing to help the Iraqis confront the dangers and the acts of aggression coming from the United States and its allies, the paper noted. The Iraqis, as do many Arabs, realise that most of the Arab regimes are serving the interests of the colonial powers led by the United States and that some of these regimes are tacitly or openly instigating Washington to launch a fresh aggression on Iraq, the paper said. It is shameful on the part of the Arab countries to remain silent in view of the American threats to their Iraqi brothers and it is painful to see other countries of the world totally falling under the influence of the U.S., said the paper. We believe that Iraq is right and on the right course to remind the Arab countries of their duty and of the need to confront the American onslaught, the paper said. The paper voiced its strong condemnation of the Arab regimes which are silent about or condoning the aggression of the Western alliance against Iraq and its people.

Syria puts squeeze on Israel by welcoming Bush plan

By John Fullerton
Reuters

CAIRO. — Syria, once shunned by the West as an extremist bent on destroying the Jewish state, has turned the tables on Israel by accepting compromise U.S. peace proposals rejected by Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing government.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's long-awaited response was well timed to gain world attention, diplomats said. It came on the eve of the summit in London on Monday of the world's leading industrial nations which have been pressing Israel to accept a land-for-peace compromise.

They said that the Group of Seven leaders and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev they will meet later, were bound to acknowledge the Syrian move as a breakthrough that offered a chance to end more than four decades of Middle East conflict.

"Syria has made important concessions," said Egyptian political commentator Tahseen

Bashir. "We are happy, but not exuberant... There are still lots of 'ifs' and 'buts'."

Mr. Assad was quoted by the official Syrian news agency SANA as telling Mr. Bush in a letter on Sunday night that his initiative was "positive and balanced."

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker praised the response as positive, saying it had moved Syria's willingness to enter direct peace talks with Israel more than any time in the past.

Mr. Assad expressed satisfaction that Mr. Bush had given special importance to a United Nations role in proposed peace talks.

Israel has already rejected Mr. Bush's ideas, refusing any U.N. role and dismissing calls for the Jewish state to trade Arab territories occupied since the 1967 war for peace.

Diplomatic sources in the region said Mr. Assad last week told his partners in Syria's ruling National Progressive Front that Mr. Bush's

letter had included the following:

— A commitment to U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, embodying the principle of trading Israeli-occupied land for peace.

— Rejection of Israel's annexation of Syria's Golan Heights.

— Setting up a peace conference under U.S.-Soviet auspices, with European involvement and in the presence of a U.N. representative.

NEWS ANALYSIS

— Joint representation of Palestinians and Jordanians in a delegation that could include leaders from the occupied territories.

— The possible reconvening of the conference to review progress in bilateral talks between the Israelis and Arabs after the opening conference session.

Although Mr. Bush had waited over a month for Mr. Assad's reply, Arab political

analysts said it came as no surprise.

"This has been carefully prepared, with the Egyptians, Syrians and Jordanians working closely together," said one Arab diplomat. The PLO had also been consulted, he added.

Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat, anxious not to be left out on a limb by Arab states, held talks in Baghdad and Jordan before flying to Libya on Monday. He met Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki last week.

In Amman on Sunday, Mr. Arafat ridiculed Washington's peace efforts as simply buying Israel time to "swallow" Arab land.

"Arafat's remarks are unfortunate but should not be taken at face value," the Arab diplomat said. "He was on his way to Libya and we must expect him to make the kind of noises his Libyan hosts expect of him."

One of Mr. Arafat's prominent supporters in the West Bank, Radwan Abu Ayyash,

expressed optimism over the Syrian reaction and said: "The ball is now in Israel's court."

The PLO's fortunes have been at a low ebb since it failed to condemn outright Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last year.

Mahmoud Abbas, member of the PLO executive committee, told reporters after meeting Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa in Cairo on Sunday that they had discussed a proposed meeting of officials from Egypt, Jordan, Syria and the PLO to work out a joint stand ahead of any peace conference.

Mr. Tahseen Bashir said he expected Mr. Bush to summon Arab and Israeli leaders for a first round of peace talks, possibly in Washington in September or October.

He doubted whether Israel could defy a summons from its American ally and stay away from negotiations.

The right-wing government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is already at odds with

Washington over its encouragement of Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Political analysts said the Syrian response appeared to mark an important concession on the part of Damascus — acceptance of direct talks with Israel, something long rejected by most Arabs.

Mr. Assad's response indicated he was also willing to accept a conference not directly under U.N. auspices, another move that he was prepared to drop in participation, they said.

But the big question, Mr. Bashir said, was whether a peace conference would lead anywhere.

Is Mr. Shamir willing to retreat in the face of international opinion and trade Israel's occupation of the Golan Heights, West Bank and Gaza Strip for a lasting peace, he asked.

Mr. Shamir has repeatedly vowed to hold on to all Arab land seized in the 1967 war.

Iran at the crossroads

By Shireen Hunter

LAST May Iran hosted an important international conference on the outlook for global energy in the 1990s. The conference was attended by six OPEC oil ministers, including the influential Saudi minister Hisham Nazir, as well as scores of Western and other energy experts and journalists. Its main stress was on the necessity for greater dialogue between consumer and producer on the production and pricing of oil and gas, in order to safeguard the interests of both and to maintain the "health of the global economy."

The conference was a key event in Iran's foreign policy orientation, indicating the slow but steady consolidation of the trend towards improved ties with the West. Three years ago, when Imam Khomeini died, the future of both the country and the regime seemed uncertain. Most observers expected ideological differences and personal rivalries to rip the Islamic regime apart. Even after the remarkably smooth transition of power and the emergence of the joint leadership of Rafsanjani and Khomeini, many still doubted the sustainability of this arrangement. So far, however, they are wrong, despite some inherent weaknesses in the arrangement.

In the last two years, a number of reforms have been initiated which, if fully implemented, will help restore order and predictability to Iranian politics and society. Constitutional amendments have streamlined the executive branch and, by concentrating executive power in the presidency and eliminating the post of prime minister, have removed a principal impediment to effective management of government. The merger of various internal security organs and especially the gradual phasing out of self-styled revolutionary committees should, in due course, help restore public confidence in the law, vitally important for Iran's political maturation and its economic reconstruction. Without it the government would not be able to attract the kind of private Iranian and foreign investment that it needs. The government has also been trying to streamline the bureaucracy and enhance its professionalism, which is also essential for the success of its economic reconstruction plan.

Religion and nationalism

Other positive developments have included the beginning of a new synthesis between the Islamic and Iranian dimensions of Iran's culture and history. In the last century, there has been a growing and highly destructive dichotomy between the Islamic and nationalist poles of Iran's culture. The extreme nationalist policies of the Pahlavi era downplayed the significance of the Islamic element in Iran's cultural development and overly glorified the pre-Islamic era. During the last decade, the revolutionary government followed an equally extreme policy, vilifying Iran's pre-Islamic culture. The result of both policies was fragmentation of Iranian society and the undermining of national unity.

Now there seems to be a growing understanding about the vital place of both religion and nationalism in Iranian culture. There is also a recognition of the influence of Iran and pre-Islamic Iranian traditions and philosophies on the development of Islamic civilisation as well as the tremendous role played by Islam in Iran's cultural flourishing. As a

result, in the late few years there has been a steady rehabilitation of nationalism and an effort at reconciliation between the two dimensions of Iran's culture.

Moreover, this trend is part and parcel of a broader process of national reconciliation. An important element of this process has been the government's effort to reach out to Iranians living abroad and to encourage them to come home. The need for expatriate capital and expertise in Iran's reconstruction has been the main reason for this outreach, but at least the pragmatists in the government also recognise the importance of national reconciliation for economic prosperity and political stability. They are also aware that the rifts of the last decade have eroded Iran's international prestige and its influence abroad.

Reform and reaction

On the economic front, the government has managed to rationalise the planning and management of the economy. It has produced a new five-year development plan which, unlike its predecessor, is more than mere slogans. It has tried to rationalise the exchange rate system, and to improve the climate for foreign investment by, among other things, creating free trade zones in the two Gulf islands of Qishm and Kish. None of these reforms, however, have been easy or rapid. On the contrary, radical elements have fought President Rafsanjani's reformist agenda every step of the way in parliament, in the press and elsewhere.

"With the exception of the most implacable of the Islamic regime's opponents, most Iranian expatriates would like to either return to their country or establish much closer cooperative relations. Most of them realise that Iran's best hope lies in the moderation and maturation of the current regime and ultimately in the economic and political opening up of Iranian society. The alternative would most likely be a sustained period of instability which would deepen Iran's economic and political malaise."

Nor has the bureaucracy, beyond the top echelons, been responsive to the reformist tone of the administration. Indeed, many bureaucrats, revolutionary committee members and others, who without any professional qualifications have reaped large financial and other benefits, have been resisting and sabotaging reforms. Consequently, despite these efforts, there has not been a significant rebound in the economy. The radicals, including some prominent figures, are also either lukewarm or openly hostile to President Rafsanjani's policy of national reconciliation and his efforts to entice the expatriate industrialists, technocrats and others back home.

Thus every positive statement by President Rafsanjani and his colleagues is followed by complaints about the dilution of revolutionary spirit and harsh warnings against the infiltration of the corrupt values of pre-revolutionary days. As a result, there has not yet been any significant influx of expatriate capital or

expertise into the country as expatriates wait to see if President Rafsanjani's reforms take hold.

However, with the exception of the most implacable of the Islamic regime's opponents, most Iranian expatriates would like to either return to their country or establish much closer cooperative relations. Most of them realise that Iran's best hope lies in the moderation and maturation of the current regime and ultimately in the economic and political opening up of Iranian society. The alternative would most likely be a sustained period of instability which would deepen Iran's economic and political malaise.

The foreign field

The Rafsanjani administration has also had significant success in the foreign policy field. But the radicals' obstructions have delayed the full rehabilitation of Iran's international ties and standing.

An especially difficult test for Iran's diplomacy was presented by the Gulf crisis. Iran's primary interest lay in not being dragged into the conflict between Iraq and the U.S.-led coalition. Iran also had to balance its interest in preventing Iraq from swallowing Kuwait and its concern over the massive introduction of American forces into the region.

Moreover, there were pressures inside the country from the radicals for Iran to support Iraq against the U.S. Yet Iran managed to balance these contradictory goals by adopting a policy of strict neutrality, by adhering to the United Nations' sanctions

relations dramatically with most European countries.

Gulf security

Iran's relations with the Gulf states also took a turn for the better. Particularly significant was the resumption of diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia. Since the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq in August 1988, improving relations with the Gulf Arabs has been a cornerstone of Iran's foreign policy. But before the Gulf crisis, Iran's success in improving ties with the Gulf Arabs was limited largely because of its poor relations with the Saudis.

With the normalisation of relations between Riyadh and Tehran last March, and steady improvement since, illustrated by the visit of the Saudi foreign minister to Tehran in early June, prospects for greater cooperation between Iran and the GCC have improved. Saudi-Iranian relations are likely to remain competitive in many respects. But if this competition is kept within bounds and is pursued in a peaceful manner, it should not be a barrier to basically friendly relations and even cooperation in certain fields.

The Saudis may come to realise that a workable relationship with Tehran would enhance their position in the Gulf and in the Arab World. Iran has already reaped the benefits of this conciliatory policy as the GCC has made it clear that no system for Gulf security would be viable without some sort of understanding with Iran. This is in sharp contrast with the earlier statements that Gulf security would be a purely Arab affair, built around the GCC plus Egypt and Syria. Without improvement in Saudi-Iranian relations, such a change in the GCC position would have been unlikely.

Despite significant gains, Iran's diplomacy has not been fully successful, and the stalemate in relations with the U.S. persists. This is because domestically there is greater resistance in Iran to efforts to improve ties with the United States than with Europe, and the U.S. remains unwilling to make even gestures of reconciliation towards Iran until Iran meets all U.S. demands, including obtaining the release of Americans held hostage in Lebanon.

Thus, despite Iran's neutrality in the Gulf war, its efforts to improve ties with U.S. regional allies and its reception of the Kurds, the U.S. continues to impose a total trade ban on Iran and refuses to unfreeze even a portion of Iran's assets held in the U.S. This U.S. attitude makes it much more difficult for President Rafsanjani to argue for improved ties with Washington.

To sum up, three years after Ayatollah Khomeini's death, Iran, rather than being on the brink of collapse, stands at a crucial crossroads. If the positive trends succeed, Iran can look with optimism towards a period of economic reconstruction, national reconciliation and international rehabilitation. The road ahead will be a tough one and the problems to be tackled daunting. To solve them will require the commitment of all Iranians and an enlightened political leadership.

But if the internal bickering continues and recent reforms remain unfulfilled, Iran faces an uncertain future and some of the pessimistic predictions made at the time of Imam Khomeini's death may yet come to pass. — Middle East International

'Emperor' wants to restore old order

By Paul Fabra

THOSE who elected François Mitterrand probably did not expect that in the weeks and months following the pomp and ceremony of the French Revolution bicentennial celebrations, the President of the Republic would try and turn himself into the Metemorphosis of modern Europe.

It all happened after the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989. It was as if, while waiting to see how things would turn out, the Elysée Palace set itself the objective of maintaining the old international order.

The most notable example of this was the manner in which French officialdom missed the boat with German reunification. A series of gestures which appeared, at first, to be spectacular and significant were soon revealed to be vain attempts to avoid the inevitable.

There was the Kiev visit in December 1989, swiftly followed by the visit to the East German leaders under siege. It is implicitly admitted in high places that these moves were unwise, although those in power flatter themselves that there were no negative consequences.

But it becoming harder and harder to disguise the fact that this optimistic version of events does not coincide with reality. Although they are not immediately visible, the consequences of the French presidential attitude were and continue to be important. One of these is to remove any real substance from the implicit objective of political union, a Europe allied to but independent of the United States.

It is not only the ancient Germanic adversary whose way France is initially trying to block. France continues to show incomprehension in the face of the aspirations of old friends like Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary who would like to join the European Community. As far as Paris is concerned, they are throwing themselves against a brick wall.

On the eve of a meeting President Mitterrand initiated in June in Prague under the inviting name of Asizes of the Confederation, he claimed "it would need dozens and dozens of years," in other words, an eternity, before these nations could find their place in the Brussels club.

His host, President Václav Havel, rejected out of hand the French concept of "confederation" leading Mr. Mitterrand to swallow the proposals to which he was most dearly attached.

Raymond Aron once reproached Valéry Giscard d'Estaing for lacking a tragic sense of history. Could this same remark hold true for the man who trusted the current head of the French state is secretly nurturing the dream (less beautiful than that of the poet) of "bringing back the old order."

How can one explain the presidential attitude in any other way? It is all happening as though the Elysée had been acting — at least in the face of French public opinion — in the light of ideas unquestionably received by the public since the de Gaulle era.

To prime the economic development pump, the former communist countries need outlets for their products more than credits from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The treaties of association now being negotiated have promised them limited access to our markets in 10 years' time. They may be suffocated by then.



François Mitterrand

The other urgent need is for foreign investment. Capital will only come if the principle of membership of the EC within a reasonable time frame is proclaimed within a treaty.

The "dilution" argument of the EC is specious. Before trying to perpetuate the structure of the 12, it made strenuous efforts to retain a Community of Six, excluding Britain. General de Gaulle was opposed to the entry of a rich country which made no secret of its intention to change the Community from within. Mr. Mitterrand wants to make the countries impoverished by 45 years of Marxism wait indefinitely for admission.

What is more, this status quo leaves to others, notably the Americans, the exclusive role of recourse and the need to create an acceptable destiny for Europe.

Mr. Mitterrand had hardly returned from Kiev when the U.S. Secretary of State made his first speech, one which was both prophetic and policy-making. In Berlin. It was here that James Baker declared on Dec. 12, 1989, that a unified Germany ought to be a member of NATO. Just as the American proposals were a taste of the future, so first French reactions soon revealed themselves to be of such a nature as to create suspicion in Europe.

The French are still preoccupied by a fear of upsetting the Soviets. Paris would have not have balked at Poland's acceptance of the offer which Moscow made to it of a security pact. If President Havel categorically rejects the idea of a confederation that is because there is a certain similarity between this and the "common home" advocated by Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr. Mitterrand had hardly returned from the Prague Asizes when James Baker made a second speech on June 18. He assured the new democracies of the West's support and invoked the prospect of a "Euro-Atlantic Community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok."

In early June, a conference of NATO Foreign Ministers in Copenhagen was duly attended by Roland Dumas, the French Foreign Minister, although France is not a member of NATO. The Quai d'Orsay claimed the reason for attending was to get the ideas accepted of European defence "pillar" in accordance with French wishes. The reality was completely different. It was the American concept of an integrated defence which won the day. What will the foreign policy and defence of the European Community be in the future?

Paul Fabra is a leader writer for Le Monde. His article is reprinted from the Guardian.

King: No regrets over position towards Gulf crisis

(Continued from page 1)

On communications with President Saddam in the past months, the King said: "We haven't talked even on the telephone since the first few days of his occupation of Kuwait. From time to time an Iraqi official passes by. I was very frank in expressing my view of the situation to them. But no, we have not had any communications."

On the course he would recommend that the U.N. and the U.S. take with regard to Iraq, the King said: "It is very difficult to see what advice I might give would make any difference. It seems to be that lines are set and people are progressing along them. But I would like to do everything I can to ensure Iraq's integrity and to see that Iraq's future in terms of the rights of its people are given a chance. I think that they should resolve their own problems internally within the context of a dialogue."

"We have a new national political character here. It took nine months. We had people from the extreme right and the extreme left getting to know each other, discussing and debating. What they produced has put us on the threshold in our political life of having political parties. I don't believe the situation in Iraq is going along these lines. I am for national reconciliation between all the parties and people of Iraq itself, and all the people of Iraq who are outside. I am for freedom and democracy. This is obviously something that concerns them, but it concerns the rest of the world as well."

On the international sanctions against Iraq, the King said: "I really think that when we have reports that over 100,000, maybe 150,000 kids under the age of five who will die within two months because of malnutrition, sickness and disease, it is a shame to all of us in this world not to do something about it. There are ways and means by which to ensure that whatever their needs are, they get to the people. I am sure that anybody who is looking at the problem with any degree of concern anywhere in the world will feel the same way. There is a difference in having a quarrel with a government, or with a system. But the people should not be involved. They paid a lot. Eight years of war with Iran, and now this."

On relations with the Gulf states, he said: "They have deteriorated with a number of Gulf states with the exception of the Sultanate of Oman. We had excellent relations with Oman throughout. I am very proud and

very happy for that. Long before the Gulf crisis I had a chance to meet with His Majesty Sultan Qaboos and hear his plans for progress and democracy in his country. As far as the rest are concerned, I think they were charged up with a lot of wrong information. It is very difficult for me to understand what has happened so far. Our view is that sooner or later the truth will come up and things will change. And they will. There is no doubt about that. Because whatever premise they base their relations with us on, we are still one Arab family."

On communications with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak lately, the King said: "We are in normal contact from time to time. I believe personally that it is vital for our people to get in touch with each other so there can be a degree of coordination and normalisation of relations. I believe that somehow the opportunity will arise at some point for leaders of this region to sit face to face. In fact I welcome it. And I have sought it so that the air can be cleared."

On the Middle East peace process, the King said: "I think there is a bit more knowledge of what the difficulties are. I hope there is a determination to continue to try to resolve them. I believe that the chances won't be with us very long before there will be an acceleration towards extension as a result of the Gulf war and the suffering of people. We have been as positive as we could be. Essentially we are agreed that there should be two tracks — one a Palestinian-Israeli track, the other an Arab-Israeli track, and that they should meet at the end."

"President Bush spoke of land for peace and a comprehensive settlement before the two houses of Congress. So that is generally what we are talking about. When they do we will go to the Security Council because after all Resolution 242 (trading land for peace) is a guarantee that has the world's blessings. We certainly favour a Palestinian delegation chosen by the Palestinian people because you can't have people representing the Palestinians except those of their own choice. However, if there is a problem there, and it can only be overcome by providing an umbrella of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, then we will do that based on talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation and with the Palestinians. We have assurances that once the process starts, there will be a concerted effort to ensure that it succeeds."

There are some in the region who fear that if it starts and it doesn't succeed then the drift toward extremism in the region will be accelerated. I have suggested that many of the taboos and the clichés of the past have to be forgotten. A real Palestinian nationalist in my book is somebody who is hanging onto his land and has been enduring hardship for years and years, much more so than some-

body who is sitting outside the occupied territories pontificating about nationalistic matters from a position of comfort."

"I have said time and again that there has to be quiet diplomacy. There has to be a mobilisation of all the people of good will who can contribute something positive to educating the Israelis out of their fortress mentality and to the meaning of peace. To educating the Palestinians of what peace means. To educating the Arabs. And to creating the bridges that are needed. I don't know whether a shock every now and then is what is needed. I think we need to get people everywhere to act. We need Europe. We need people who

have access to every party to this conflict. We are ready, willing and hopeful. We believe in a comprehensive settlement. It can't be just between Jordan and Israel. Jordan cannot be Palestine."

He stressed that the peace process "cannot go forward, without the Palestinians involved in resolving their own problems. And even then, my preference is that everybody has to be involved. Because everybody has a share, everybody has an interest, and of course Syria does. But this question has been put to us time and again: Are you tied to Syria's position? We are not tied to anybody's position. We are masters of our own destiny, and we will decide

what we believe is right."

"I believe it is our last chance (for peace). We don't have much time. According to some estimates, the Israelis now occupy 65 per cent of the West Bank and Gaza. More resources are likely to be provided later on."

Asked what the alternative to peace was and whether war was inevitable, the King said: "If there is no peace, things cannot remain the way they are. You can't tackle some of the really serious problems we face except in a context of peace. Things that affect people such as water, the economy, progress, people settling down. You can't tackle extremism. This madness will bring about eventual disaster."

Baker to resume Mideast mission

(Continued from page 1)

progress can be made and feel it will be very useful."

The Mideast assignment will require Mr. Baker to scrap plans to accompany Mr. Bush on Thursday and Friday to Greece and Saturday and Sunday to Turkey.

However, Mr. Fitzwater said, Mr. Baker will attend a meeting of six Asian nations in Malaysia next week.

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy told parliament Monday of Mr. Baker's plans.

"Mr. Baker is supposed to arrive in Israel early next week, according to an announcement I have received," Mr. Levy said.

It would be the U.S. secretary's first trip to the region since mid-May.

Earlier, Mr. Bush called the Syrian statement "a good response from President (Hafez Al) Assad."

"We're analysing the details but it's very positive," he told reporters in London.

Mr. Baker said Sunday the Syrian response had moved Damascus "further than they have been willing to move in any peace process efforts that I'm aware of before."

Mr. Baker made four trips in the aftermath of the Gulf war which ended in February, the most recent in late May.

But his mediation attempt bogged down when Israel and Syria disagreed on whether the United Nations should take part in the peace conference and whether it should have the power to reconvene after an opening session.

Mr. Baker wrote to Israel and Syria in early June outlining compromise proposals under which the U.N. would send a non-speaking observer to the conference which could be reconvened with the approval of all its participants.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir rejected both proposals. Details of Mr. Assad's reply have not been published but the assumption is that he has accepted the Bush proposals, at least conditionally.

If so, the main aim of a new Baker mission would be to put heavy pressure on Israel to offer its own concessions.

Mr. Baker said that a cursory first reading of a long letter from Mr. Assad suggested that the Syrian reply did not appear to set conditions for the acceptance of U.S. proposal.

But he said he wanted to read the letter more closely and noted that there were "some suggestions that we would want to probe and see if they are in any way conditional."

Mr. Fitzwater said that Syria's letter "represents real movement in the search for peace, and it goes well beyond any previous position taken by Syria."

Asked if Syria's move increased pressure on Israel, Mr. Fitzwater said: "It opens some new possibilities, but each country has to judge these opportunities for themselves."

In Damascus, a senior Syrian official said the proposal for a Middle East peace conference should increase pressure on Israel to agree to the plan.

But right-wing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir insisted on Monday he would not back down from his rejection last month of Mr. Bush's compromise proposals.

"Understandably, Israel will stand on all the positions expressed in the prime minister's letter to President Bush," Mr. Shamir's office said in the first authoritative response a day after Syria endorsed the plan.

"We still have not received from the Americans the details of the Syrian response," Mr. Shamir's office said.

"But if the Syrian response allows the opening of direct negotiations without interlocutors we will look upon it favourably because, after all, what Israel has always wanted is to sit with the Arab states without prior conditions."

Mr. Levy told parliament Monday Syria's endorsement of the U.S. plan could be positive but he wanted to see the text of Mr. Assad's letter to Mr. Bush.

"I hope it is a good response and that it marks a change in the Syrian position, which was hard-line," Mr. Levy declared.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens told reporters: "The Syrians can put on the table whatever they want and we will put on the table whatever we consider the proper thing to do."

Mr. Assad was quoted by the official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) as telling Mr. Bush in a letter Sunday night that his initiative was "positive and balanced."

He expressed satisfaction that Mr. Bush had given special importance to a United Nations role in proposed peace talks.

Political analysts said the Syrian response appeared to mark an important concession by Damascus — acceptance of direct talks with Israel.

Mr. Assad indicated he was also willing to accept a conference not directly under U.N. auspices, and that he was prepared to drop Arab demands for direct Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) participation, they said.

Diplomats said the Group of Seven leaders and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will meet later, were bound to acknowledge the Syrian move as a breakthrough that offered a chance to end more than four decades of Middle East conflict.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, speaking in Jordan Sunday before the Syrian announcement, ridiculed U.S. peace efforts. "These are not peace efforts, they are just fobbing (Arabs) off," he said.

Twenty-four hours later his political adviser, Bassam Abu Sharif, said in Tunis the Syrian reply "unquestionably shows that all Arab positions on President George Bush's proposals are positive and constructive." Israel remained the only obstacle to peace.

"The PLO welcomes and appreciates the proposals made by President Bush at a session of the American Congress in March," Mr. Abu Sharif said.

Mr. Abu Sharif said the PLO statement, coupled with the Syrian approval of the U.S. plan, "proves beyond any doubt that the Arab position towards President Bush's initiative is constructive and positive."

"Israeli intransigence remains the only stumbling block, and the (U.N.) Security Council and the United States should shoulder the responsibility towards safeguarding international legitimacy," Mr. Abu Sharif added.

Mr. Abu Sharif called for a summit meeting of Mr. Arafat, President Assad, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, King Hussein and Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, to coordinate stands on the proposed peace process.

"A summit at the highest level among the leaders of the PLO, Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon has become a necessity," Mr. Abu Sharif said.

Mr. Abu Sharif said the PLO had "paid homage" in official publications to Mr. Bush's proposals and had tried to assist efforts by Mr. Baker to convene a conference.

"The role of Egypt and its President (Hosni Mubarak) is essential in view of its Arab and international weight and its consistent position in the favour of the Palestinian people's rights," said Mr. Abu Sharif.

Egypt praised Syria's acceptance of President Bush's proposal and said only Israel can decide now whether peacemaking will progress.

"We welcome Syria's response to the U.S. initiative," said Foreign Minister Amr Musa. "Syria's participation in the peace process is a positive step. The Syrian role is very important."

"We hope that this response will push the peace process forward."

President Mubarak's chief political aide, Osama Al Baz, said the Syrian response means "the Arab side has taken all the necessary steps. Now it is up to Israel to take responsibility for starting peace talks."

'Iraqis face sanctions catastrophe'

(Continued from page 1)

the humanitarian purposes of imports financed by oil sales," the report said.

It said it was "imperative" that the needs of Iraq's 18 million people be met urgently and called for rapid agreement on monitoring mechanisms.

A foreword to the report, signed by Prince Sadruddin, said: "We are neither crying wolf nor playing politics. But it is evident that for large numbers of the people of Iraq, every passing month brings closer the brink of calamity."

Several members of the delegation that helped compile the report said they expected the Sanctions Committee to make any easing of sanctions conditional upon Baghdad's complete cooperation with U.N. experts inspecting Iraqi nuclear equipment under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire agreement.

One U.N. source, who asked not to be named, said the timing of the report was "unfortunate." He said Washington was unlikely to show any sympathy towards the suffering of Iraqi civilians while at the same time threatening a military strike against alleged nuclear weapons facilities.

However, Prince Sadruddin told the meeting at the U.N. headquarters in Geneva that world leaders had a "moral responsibility" to separate humanitarian from political questions.

His team's report estimated that it would cost about \$23 billion for Baghdad to restore services in the oil, power generating, water, food, agricultural and health sectors to pre-war levels.

The report said full resumption of services was unrealistic in the near-term for practical and political reasons. Its recommendations therefore focussed on what Iraq needed to cover emergency requirements over the next four months.

Given the importance of the oil sector, it recommended that Iraq should be allowed to import \$1 billion worth of equipment to restore its shattered production facilities.

In the health system, it said Iraq should be given access to funds to pay for \$167 million worth of medicines and \$18 million for special foods for mothers and infants.

On water purification and sewage treatment, it proposed that Iraq should be allowed to import equipment worth \$80 million over the next four months.

It recommended "suitable arrangements be urgently worked out" to enable Iraq to pay for basic food imports estimated at \$2.64 billion per year, and purchases for agricultural supplies such as fertilisers and machinery.

Iraq meanwhile, linked the case of jailed Briton Ian Richter to its assets frozen in Britain over the invasion of Kuwait.

"When one country asks another to adopt a positive step then this should be met in kind by the other party," Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi told a news conference.

Britain has said that it will not support any lifting of Gulf crisis sanctions if Iraq does not release Mr. Richter, a 45-year-old engineer jailed for life in 1986 on bribery charges.

Fate of cabinet in balance

(Continued from page 1)

But other political analysts criticise the members of the hastily-formed bloc since most of its prominent figures are "establishment figures who benefitted from the centralised power in the past 10 years or so and now that it is somebody else's turn they claim to be the opposition."

"I fail to see what is the ideological element that brought these members together, short of the insistence of their leaders on remaining in power and the hope of the followers that they might themselves become ministers," one political analyst commented.

"In fact, if anything, they are united in their liberal tendencies which they share with the same government which they might cause to fail," another observer said.

Some members of the Constitution Bloc are self-declared ardent supporters of Mr. Masri's government and until early this week were lobbying to collect votes to its favour.

A cabinet minister in touch with several members of the bloc said that until two days ago, seven members of the bloc were considered a positive factor in the confidence vote marathon due to begin today.

Observers point to the battle

over the speakership of the House which has borne unlikely alliances among the parliamentary blocs before as an instrumental factor in the formation of the Constitution Bloc.

Mr. Hindawi lost the competition for the seat against Deputy Suleiman Arar in the first regular session of the House in November 1989. Mr. Hindawi then allied his now-defunct Nationalist Bloc with the Muslim Brotherhood bloc in the second regular session and caused the failure of Mr. Arar's bid for reelection against current speaker and Muslim Brotherhood member Abdul Latif Arabiyat.

Observers say that Mr. Hindawi's interest at this time is to ensure an alliance in the House which would guarantee him the speakership seat in the next regular session of the House in November.

The political map of the House, as of Monday evening, was divided into six parliamentary blocs:

The Muslim Brotherhood bloc (23 members);
The National Bloc (17);
The Constitution Bloc (13);
The Liberal Bloc (5);
The Democratic Bloc (9);
The Independent Islamic Bloc (6); and Independents (7).

Iraq: U.S. attack probable

(Continued from page 1)

Arabs ... can know the facts as they stand and so they may assume a pan-Arab role in confronting the allegations of the United States and its allies."

At his news conference Dr. Hammadi accused Western nations, the United States in particular, of using "fabricated pretexts to launch a premeditated attack" on Iraq despite its willingness to cooperate fully with U.N. inspectors seeking access to its nuclear development sites.

He said that the U.S. objective was the destruction of Iraq and its political system, the restoration of Western dominance in the region and the defence of Israel.

"Iraq's technical and military capabilities are known and we will defend ourselves to the best of our capabilities, be they great or small," he added.

Iraq has released a new, more extensive list describing its nuclear programme.

Sources close to a U.N. team that has been trying to get a complete picture of the Iraqi programme said the list, which the Baghdad provided Sunday, was the most detailed yet offered.

But the head of the 37-member U.N. team would not say whether the list satisfied all demands made by the United Nations in Resolution 687.

On Monday, Britain joined France and the United States in saying it was prepared to use force to stop Iraq from acquiring nuclear weapons.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said in London the Group of Seven leading industrial nations all agreed "that one way or another we are going to prevent Iraq becoming another nuclear power."

Asked in an interview with Britain's Independent Television Network, "even if that means providing forces?" Mr. Hurd replied, "Yes."

Dr. Hammadi said that Mr. Bush's talk of attacking Iraq and the "unusual" diplomatic language he used suggested that Washington was working according to a premeditated plan.

The United States and other members of the Security Council he added, had a separate political plan to destroy Iraq to leave the way clear for Israel to dominate the Middle East.

Dr. Hammadi denounced the continuation of a U.N. trade blockade, imposed after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August, saying that the reasons for it no longer existed.

He said this and U.S. and British refusal to unfreeze Iraq assets to enable Baghdad to buy food and medicines were part of the plan to destroy Iraq.

"What is intended is to starve the people of Iraq with the hope that they will revolt and change their leader Saddam Hussein," he said.

U.N. team leader Dimitri Pericos said the latest Iraqi list provides information in all areas requested: Research and development in the field of uranium enrichment; manufacture and production of uranium; storage and burial; and the use of nuclear material.

He was expected to report to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna and the United Nations in New York Monday, when the Security Council was to hear an assessment by U.N. officials of Iraq's nuclear declaration.

"Mr. Pericos said a decision on whether the list satisfied U.N. requirements would be made by the atomic agency, which has sent three teams to Iraq on the U.N.'s behalf."

Israeli leaders say there "is no need for panic" over suggestions the United States and its allies could attack Iraq if it failed to disclose nuclear development sites.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens and Foreign Minister David Levy told Israeli reporters the risks of Iraq firing missiles again at Israel in response to Western attack were small.

"History does not repeat itself and I think this would be correct to say about the current circumstances," Mr. Arens said on Israel Radio.

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

THE PROFESSIONALS ALWAYS CHOOSE THE RELIABLE

PACKING, AIR FREIGHT FORWARDING, DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES AND DELIVERIES, CUSTOMS CLEARANCE, TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS.

AMIN KAWAR & SONS
Tel: 604576 604696
P.O. Box 7806 AMMAN

4 Rent & Sale

Many villas and apartments are available for rent and sale - furnished or unfurnished.

Also many lots of land are available for sale.

For further details, please call

Abdoun Real Estate
Tel: 810805, 810809
Fax: 810520

Ricardo 2266

Amman's exclusive gift shop

Italian shoes, leather goods, perfumes, lighters, watches, pens, silverware, porcelain, crystalware etc.

Shmeisani - Grindlays Bank Bldg.
Tel: 669 457

STUDIO HAIG

Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service

Develop your colour film at our shop and get:-

- JUMBO photo size 30% larger
- Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm

Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042
Swedish tel: 823891

RENT Saudi Real Estate

Furnished & unfurnished apartments & villas for rent in West Amman area.

CALL SOHA
Rental Dept. 687821/22

CROWN INT'L EST.

Packing, shipping, forwarding, storage, clearing, door-to-door service

Air, Sea and Land

Agents all over the world

Tel: 664090
Fax: 690852
P.O. Box 92547 Amman

THE RANCH STEAK HOUSE

The best steak in town.

TRAVEL SERVICES OFFICE

Daily tours arranged on request to the following places:

PETRA, JERASH, DEAD SEA

For further information please call us: 614272

RESTAURANT CHINA

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabel Amman, near Al-Hayah Girls School

Tel: 639988

PEKING RESTAURANT

Authentic Chinese Cuisine

colorful atmosphere moderate prices

Shmeisani Tel: 602030
1st floor daily

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT

Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket

Mongolian Barbecue for Lunch Friday only

Tel: 818214

Come and taste our specialties

Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.
6:30 - Midnight

MANDARIN RESTAURANT

Special Chinese Foods Skilled Chinese Chefs

Open 12:30-3:30 & 8:00-11:30 daily

Take away is available

Wadi Saqra Road near Philadelphia Hotel
Tel: 681822, Amman

Best Tasted Always Loved

AUSTRALIA Insurance Services

A Unique Australian Experience in Jordan

All Types Of Insurance:

- MOTOR
- HOUSE HOLD
- FIRE
- PERSONAL ACCIDENT & ENGINEERING
- MEDICAL
- CARGO
- TRAVEL COUPON

Jabal Amman - First Circle
Tel: 610948 Fax: 612948
Tlx: 27644 AUSTRALIA JO.

The First Class Hotel in Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room!

DAROTEL

Amman - Tel: 688193
P.O. Box 9403 - Fax: 602434
Telex: 23888 DAROTEL JO

Ideal Residence For Expatriates and Businessmen

LOBBY LOUNGE

SABIL

DAILY PIANO ENTERTAINMENT

For the best for your MONEY ADVERTISE in the Jordan Times

World Student Games opens Texan upsets world champion Chinese swimmer in 100m heat

SHEFFIELD, England (Agencies) — Texan swimmer Julie Sommer upset world 50-metre champion Yong Zhuang of China Monday to win her 100-metre freestyle heat at the 16th World Student Games.

Zhuang was ahead at the turn but Sommer produced a fast second length to race past her and also American compatriot Dyne Burrell. Who finished third.

All three made the final later Monday. But the fastest time of the heats went to Canadian Andrea Nugent, who equalled her best time of the year — 57.43 seconds.

Sommer, who swims for Texas Aquatics, finished in 57.87 seconds, 0.16 ahead of Zhuang, who has clocked the world's third fastest time of 55.65 for the 100 metre this year.

The women's 100-metre freestylers were to receive the first swimming medals of the games, which went into full swing Monday.

Some 5,500 competitors from 111 countries have arrived for the 12-day event, which embraces 11 sports — swimming, gymnastics, track and field, diving, basketball, volleyball, water polo, field hockey, soccer, fencing and tennis.

While diving does not start until Thursday and athletics begins Saturday, competitors in the other nine sports saw action Monday.

The U.S. women's basketball team faced Ireland in its first group match, while its men's soccer team clashed with host nation Britain.

The first medal in the gymnastics arena was expected to go to the Soviet Union in the men's team event.

While Sommer produced the first upset in the swimming heats, there were no surprises in the women's 400 metre individual medley.

China's Li Lin, world champion in both 200 metre and 400 medleys, eased through as the fastest qualifier in a time of four minutes, 50.65 seconds. That was 3.85 seconds quicker than Alicia Peczak of Poland, who won her heat in 4:54.50.

Patricia Noall of Canada and Sheila Taormina of the United States qualified for Monday's final as third and fourth fastest.

The men's 100 metre breaststroke saw Americans Brian Pajcar, of the Cal-Irvine Club, and Leif Engstrom Heg, Las Vegas

Gold, qualify at the top of the list.

Their countryman, Joshua Davis, will head the finalists in the men's 200 metre freestyle after completing his heat in 1:51.01, just 0.12 over his personal best time.

Meanwhile World Student Games officials have apologised to Yugoslavia after their 16-strong delegation missed Sunday night's opening ceremony because of a misunderstanding.

The Yugoslavs were waiting their turn to enter the arena only to be told they were not expected and there was no flag or banner for them to march behind.

Officials urged them to parade around the stadium anyway, but they refused to march without a flag and after a brief period the unhappy squad left for the athletes' village.

Last week it was confirmed Yugoslavia had pulled out of all the team events although individuals would be taking part. But officials responsible for the opening ceremony understood no Yugoslavs at all would be arriving.

Games Director of Administration Ray Gridley said Monday: "Every effort is being made to make amends."

Ironically, Lebanon, whose 20-strong squad arrived totally without notice at the weekend, did take part in the ceremony and it was confirmed Monday they would be allowed to compete.

Games torch goes out

The World Student Games made a disastrous start Sunday when British astronaut Helen Sharman tripped, extinguishing the blazing torch being used to light the ceremonial flame.

Sharman, who earlier this year spent eight days in space, had just received the torch in the centre of the Don Valley Stadium.

But as she made her way along the red carpet, heading for the ceremonial bowl, she stumbled. The torch crashed in embers to the ground leaving Sharman stunned and confused.

After a few seconds delay, officials urged her to run the rest of the way with the torch extinguished.

Sharman carried on bravely and because the flame in the bowl was ignited automatically the ceremony continued.

Games official Penny Dain said: "She tripped on a kerb under the carpet at the edge of the track."

Lemond still leads as tour enters 2nd week

RENNES, France (AP) — Greg Lemond started the second week of the Tour de France the same way he started the first — as the leader.

It's also the way he usually ends the race, although two weeks remain in this year's bid for a third consecutive title.

Lemond started this year's race with the yellow jersey as the defending champion. He gave it up immediately to Thierry Marie of France, who won the prologue.

Lemond got it back the next day after the first stage, but held onto it for just an afternoon before Rolf Sorensen of Denmark claimed it for the next four days.

"Since the beginning of the tour, everybody's been attacking. That's why the lead has changed so much," Lemond said.

After Sorensen went out with a broken collarbone and Marie got it back for a second time, Lemond again took the lead — and the yellow jersey — by placing second in Saturday's time trial.

He held it for a second consecutive day on Sunday by finishing in the pack, 53 seconds



Greg Lemond behind stage winner Mauro Barberio of Brazil.

For Lemond, two days is the longest stint he's had wearing the yellow jersey since the middle of the 1989 race.

He usually wins it just in the nick of time — like the final-day time trial two years ago that enabled him to nip France's Laurent Fignon by eight seconds, or his come-from-behind effort on the next-to-last day last year to overtake Claudio Chiappucci of Italy.

Lemond wouldn't mind losing the jersey again — just as long as he wears it at the end of the race.

"I ride to win the tour overall. So tactically I don't care what happens day after day," Lemond said. "I don't know if I can control everyone."

He can control himself, as he did Saturday in making up more than 90 seconds on favoured Erik Breukink in the last 6.2 miles of the 45-mile time trial.

Chile, Argentinian advance to finals of America Cup

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Argentina and Chile filled half of the final round of the America Cup Sunday, Argentina beating Peru 3-2 for its fourth straight win and host Chile routing Paraguay 4-0.

Advancing to the second round was a major goal for Chile, which already has been banned from the 1994 World Cup because its goalkeeper, Roberto Rojas, faked an injury during a World Cup qualifying game in 1989.

Argentina finished with a 4-0-0 record and as the winner of Group A in the 10-nation South American Championship. Chile's victory gave it a 3-0-1 record, putting it ahead of Paraguay (2-0-2), Peru (1-0-3), and Venezuela (0-0-4).

Brazil plays Ecuador and Uruguay plays Colombia in the final doubleheader of Group B. Colombia has five points, while Ecuador, Brazil and Uruguay have three each. Only the top two teams in each group advance.

Chile got three of its goals from European-based players. Hugo Rubio of Saint Gallen of Switzer-

land scored first in the 12th minute and Ivan Zamorano, who stars for Sevilla of the Spanish League, added one three minutes later.

Fabian Estay continued the scoring in the second half, adding a goal in the 62nd minute and Jaime Vera, a midfielder who plays for Ofi of Greece, finishing the scoring nine minutes later.

The Chileans, needing to win to advance, went on the offensive from the start. But Paraguay, which would have qualified with a draw, reinforced their defence and midfield, leaving only Gabriel Gonzalez to attack.

In the first game, Diego Latorre, who recently joined Fiorentina of Italy, scored three minutes after kickoff to give Argentina a lead. But Alfonso Yanez tied the game on a penalty kick in the 35th minute.

Nestor Craviotto, whose handball resulted in Yanez's penalty kick, atoned for the error with a goal in the 51st minute on header. Five minutes later, Claudio Garcia scored the eventual game-winner off a pass from Latorre.

Gustafsson routs Mancini to win Swedish Open

BASTAD, Sweden (AP) — Second-seeded Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden routed Alberto Mancini of Argentina 6-1, 6-2 in less than an hour to win the Swedish Open Men's Tennis Championship.

"I hardly didn't miss a shot today. This is the greatest moment in my career," Gustafsson said.

It was the second ATP Tour title for the 24-year-old Swede, who also won clay-court tournament two months ago in Munich, Germany.

"But it's more satisfying to win

a tournament in your own country. I didn't even come close last time," said Gustafsson, who lost in straight sets to Ivan Lendl in the 1989 Stockholm Open final.

Gustafsson's powerful forehand was his main weapon against the Mancini.

Gustafsson, who became the first Swede to win the tournament since 1987, is expected to improve his ranking to a career-best 15th with the victory. He finished 31st on the ATP Tour computer last year, having missed four months after surgery on his left knee following the French Open.

Mansell adds drama to Formula One racing

SILVERSTONE, England (R) — Nigel Mansell's commanding victory in Sunday's British Grand Prix motor race has lifted him into contention for the world drivers' title at the halfway stage of the 1991 season.

The 37-year-old Briton is now 18 points behind championship leader Ayrton Senna and closing fast on the Brazilian, runaway winner of the season's first four races.

Senna said he had been stunned by Mansell's performance, particularly when he overtook him on the first lap, and conceded that Mansell was now a real threat to his ambition for a third title in four years.

"What happened?" he said. "It was just incredible. Mansell just flew past me and I could do nothing. He drove so well and was so quick. It was a great victory for him."

Despite reeling off a record four successive victories at the start of the season, Senna has always maintained that his McLaren, powered by a Honda V12 engine, is not the perfect machine it appears to be.

This was proved on the opening lap Sunday when Mansell, in his Williams powered by a Renault V10, made a poor start. "I missed the red light going out," admitted Mansell. "I was a split second too late."

It mattered little as once Mansell had caught Senna on the hangar straight, he was able to power past the Brazilian and carry on to win the 59-lap race. Senna ran out of fuel on the final

lap and finished fourth.

"I was disappointed, of course, not to finish second because that would have been very good for my championship position," said Senna. "Now it is going to be a very close struggle."

Mansell, who has 33 points to Senna's 51, said he would not even contemplate winning his first championship.

"I cannot even dream about it," he said. "We are only halfway through the season and we'll just have to wait and see."

Mansell may wish to avoid discussion of the championship, but it cannot be overlooked that he has become the form driver in the four races since Monaco.

At the Canadian Grand Prix in June, he was unlucky to have victory taken from him on the final lap by a failure with his computer-controlled semi-automatic gearbox. Two weeks later, in Mexico, he finished second, only 1.3 seconds behind his team mate Riccardo Patrese.

This was followed by two victories so far in July which have launched his challenge. He is, however, unlikely to find victory so easy at Hockenheim at the German Grand Prix on July 28.

The long straights of the German track and the slow chicanes are perfectly suited to the power of the Honda V12 engine and should give Senna and Berger, on his home track, the edge.

Ferrari, too, with their much-improved 643, should find Hockenheim more to their liking, but appear to have left their mid-

season revival too late to make much impact on the championship despite Frenchman Alain Prost's rediscovered consistency.

He was third Sunday after finishing second in France two weeks ago, but concedes that it is pointless considering his hopes of raising a late challenge to Senna. "The gap is much too big," he said. "It is much more important for me and for Ferrari just to concentrate on winning a race soon."

With 21 points, Prost is fourth in the championship behind Patrese on 20, the Italian having failed to collect any points Sunday after a first-lap tangle with Berger.

Patrese, however, remains Mansell's greatest obstacle in pursuit of the title because, with his fine form this year in the Williams, he has shown he is capable of outpacing his British team mate.

This suggests that even if the second half of the season is dominated by the Williams team, the drivers will have to divide the spoils and may well give Senna a more comfortable passage to the championship than he expects.

Suzuki fined

Japan's Aguri Suzuki was fined \$10,000 by race stewards for dangerous driving after his Lola collided with the Ferrari of Frenchman Jean Alesi Sunday.

Suzuki, in 14th place, had pulled across in front of Alesi going into a corner on lap 31 as the fourth-placed Frenchman tried to

lap him.

Both men retired after the clash. Suzuki pulling off immediately and Alesi coming into the pits one lap later with a broken nose cone.

Meanwhile, Formula One newcomers Jordan won escape from the ordeal of pre-qualifying until mid-1992 after finishing in the points at the British Grand Prix.

Frenchman Bertrand Gachot, forced to pre-qualify with team mate Andrea de Cesaris of Italy here, finished sixth in the race to pick up the team's 10th championship point this season.

The result made them the sixth-ranked team on the circuit. Under Formula One rules, the top 13 teams — based on results during the second half of one season and the first half of the next — automatically enter official race qualifying sessions.

Other drivers have to pre-qualify, with the fastest four joining the rest of the field to fight for a place on the starting grid.

Silverstone marked the halfway point in the 1991 season. Brabham's British duo of Mark Blundell and Martin Brundle, previously exempt due to their results, will now have to pre-qualify.

They needed a seventh place at Silverstone to stave off the drop but both drivers were forced to retire due to mechanical failure.

They were joined by the struggling AGS and Footwork teams while Lamborghini and Dallara now join Jordan in the main qualifying sessions.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JULY 16, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The early part of Tuesday until about 2:29 PM PDT, can be quite tedious before the Moon in Libra Taurus Saturn providing us with benefits through a willing acceptance of duty.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Seeing new ways by which you can get your work done much better is of first importance now so look at all sides of jobs facing you for the best.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is your day to give compliments to those usual contacts who deserve them and make a point to show your devotion to conscientious helpers.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Think out a better course under which you operate and make a point to show you are the one who does value news to increase money given to you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can get in touch with pals who have the know-how to help you make some plan that is of first importance to you realizeable.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Whatever you have in mind requiring that you busy yourself getting more information how to make your dreams come true on practical levels is just great.

VERGO: (August 22 to September 21) An emotional friend who understands you pretty well but who is usually very self-absorbed

will now forget self to help you to get what you want.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A personal conversation alone with one who has a considerable amount of influence is the best way you can get ahead in that pet project of yours.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Whatever matters the most to you in putting across some new plan can be better understood by the study you put into the available sources of information you have.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) There are many facets of your responsibilities and all of them at this time require you to analyze how you can best handle them later.

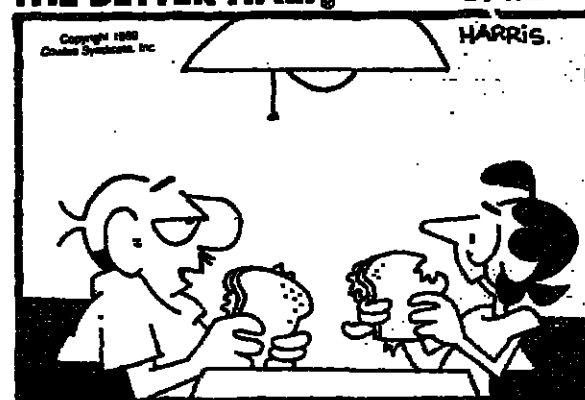
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Look for some idea, not thought of before this, by which you can greatly impress a partner and get him to go along more wholeheartedly with your ambitions.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have a chance to get paid for some project you have to do that can make conditions for you easier for you to handle present obligations.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is your moment to show you do value the pleasures that have been yours and to enter into some new arrangements with a clever admirer.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Regular tuna is 99 cents a can. Cat tuna is 59 cents a can. Guess which one I bought!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KOWEA

NARCH

TRYAP

SUTTRY

WHAT HE DID BEFORE HE COULD GET THE JOB AS SPAGHETTI CHIEF.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: "KOWEA-NARCH-TRYAP-SUTTRY"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TYPED FETCH UPROAR CHOSEN

Answer: The less one knows of boxing, the more one becomes acquainted with this—THE ROPES

THE Daily Crossword by I. Miller

ACROSS

1 Starting with 501 a silver-white element

10 Children

14 Barnako's land

15 — ac

16 King of humor

17 Probability

18 Cotton candy ingredient

19 Across Moreno

20 Impetuosity

22 Unkempt

24 Be an owner of

25 Part of TLC

26 Slugger Hank

29 Chichat

34 Surgeon

36 Christiana today

37 Cornat perjury

38 Rocky's ally

39 Cropped up

41 Exile site

42 Jump kin

43 Stern

44 Sahara

45 Cuddled up

46 Colors

50 Domicile

51 Pre-med course

52 Judge's office

53 Standards

56 Part of a plot

57 Famous

63 Turnip e.g.

64 Quay

65 Spooky

66 "Leave only Beaver"

67 Singer Arnold

68 Stable terms

69 Gent

DOWN

1 Dot of love

2 Across

3 Thompson

4 Glass house of sorts

5 Stationed

6 Embarras

7 Miscellaneous dishonesty

8 Once — lifetime

9 Rounded —

10 An apple for

11 Damoured

12 Computer

13 Famous

21 "Then there were —"

22 Woody's son

23 Musical Mama

26 Blazing

27 Picasso's man

28 Mergers

30 Elk

31 Mel or Fred

32 Cube — (rum drink)

33 "Emmion"

34 Dot

35 Umbrella

36 Emerson's

37 event

40 Indy

41 Cryptic

43 Yahoo

45 Coup d'—

47 In good spirits

48 Evolutionary

52 Bad cube

53 Dracula's garb

54 Etcher's fluid

55 TV equine

56 Mrs. Others of the compe

57 Portney's</

Financial Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date: 12/7/91	TOKYO CLOSE Date: 15/7/91
Sterling Pound	1.6493	1.6450
Deutsche Mark	1.7895	1.7909
Swiss Franc	1.5493	1.5520
French Franc	6.0730	6.0815**
Japanese Yen	136.40	137.00
European Currency Unit	1.1465	1.1473**

USD Per STG
European Opening at 6:00 a.m. GMT

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.93	6.06	6.31	6.75
Sterling Pound	11.06	10.87	10.68	10.56
Deutsche Mark	6.75	6.93	9.12	9.25
Swiss Franc	7.88	7.75	7.75	7.62
French Franc	9.37	9.37	9.43	9.50
Japanese Yen	7.37	7.53	7.37	7.31
European Currency Unit	9.62	9.75	9.81	9.81

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	369.50	7.10	Silver	4.42	.10

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.686	.688
Sterling Pound	1.1277	1.1333
Deutsche Mark	.3630	.3649
Swiss Franc	.4423	.4445
French Franc	.1128	.1134
Japanese Yen	.4997	.5022
Dutch Guilder	.3400	.3417
Swedish Krona	.1058	.1063
Italian Lira	.0514	.0517
Belgian Franc	.01856	.01865

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7870	1.7950
Lebanese Lira	.0760	.0790
Saudi Riyal	.1826	.1835
Kuwaiti Dinar		
Qatari Riyal	.1853	.1865
Egyptian Pound	.1850	.2000
Omani Riyal	1.7490	1.7570
UAE Dirham	.1853	.1865
Greek Drachma	.3300	.3500
Cypriot Pound	1.3900	1.4200

Index	10/7/1991 Close	14/7/1991 Close
All-Share	112.04	110.86
Banking Sector	107.02	106.36
Insurance Sector	120.19	119.29
Industry Sector	117.07	115.19
Services Sector	127.78	125.47

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.6430/40	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1460/65	Canadian dollar
	1.7953/63	Deutsche marks
	2.0215/25	Dutch guilders
	1.5555/62	Swiss francs
	36.93/97	Belgian francs
	6.0900/50	French francs
	1336/1337	Italian lire
	137.25/35	Japanese yen
	6.4960/10	Swedish crowns
	7.020/70	Norwegian crowns
	6.9450/500	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	369.10/369.60	U.S. dollars

New air-freight company to take off in early November

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Jordanian business group has secured a licence to operate an Amman-based air cargo company, and the licensee expects the firm to be operational with two leased aircraft by November this year to plug in what produce exporters describe as a gap in the local air-freight market.

The licence has been issued to Khaled Shaheen of the Shaheen group of companies, whose activities include produce export. The group is pursuing what a company official said were "technical and operational" issues with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to secure its approval for the new entity.

Independent sources expected the approval process to be tough. "The Jordanian Civil Aviation Authority is following the same technical and safety standards and levels as laid down by some of the advanced Western countries," noted one source.

But the company official said he did not expect any major problems over technical and safety standards.

The idea of an air-freight company has been in the air for several years, particularly in light of off-heard complaints by produce exporters that the national carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ), has been monopolising the market.

RJ officials deny the charges and say that the Jordanian import market or the volume of produce exports is not big enough for an additional air-freight company. They also maintain that there is little coordination among Jordanian agricultural exporters to lower freight costs by sharing space in outgoing RJ cargo planes.

The licence has been issued to Mr. Shaheen's Mediterranean Express Cargo "will not pose any competition to RJ," said the company official. "There is enough room, during the season, for additional cargo aircraft," he said.

International experts have reported over the years that one of the main problems facing Jordanian agricultural exports to Europe was the high cost of air transport, especially that RJ has to make allowances for the fact that its cargo planes carry very little on their return leg.

"There could be wider scope for an Amman-based air-freight company as and when the international sanctions on Iraq are lifted," noted the industry source. But, he added, Iraqi Airways has always been very active in the field of cargo transport and the share of a new company in the field will be restricted in the long run, "although in the beginning business could be booming in view of Iraq's immediate needs."

Since the Jordanian produce export season is limited to seven months, any air freight company will have to have wider contacts and operations to pay for aircraft lease, which, under all international norms and practices, has to be for a minimum period of 12 months, the source noted.

Mediterranean Express Cargo will have an initial capital of \$200,000 and an operating capital of \$1.5 million, the company official told the Jordan Times. The company plans to lease two Boeing 707-320 aircraft from American or European private operators in its first phase of operations.

Any precise estimate of Jordanian produce exports is difficult to obtain in view of the shift in markets and the increased focus on countries other than the traditional importers of Jordanian produce in the Gulf states, economists say.

Most of the Gulf countries either cut down or suspended their imports from Jordan during the Gulf crisis as a result of what they perceived as the Kingdom's support for Iraq. Efforts are under way to normalise the situation.

"If we manage to restore our Gulf markets to the pre-crisis level, then the main beneficiaries would be land transport companies rather than air freighters," noted an industry source.

But that does not preclude the financial feasibility of a Jordanian air-freight company, particularly if proper groundwork was done in Europe and the Far East, he agreed.

In any event, Mediterranean Express Cargo "will not pose any competition to RJ," said the company official. "There is enough room, during the season, for additional cargo aircraft," he said.

International experts have reported over the years that one of the main problems facing Jordanian agricultural exports to Europe was the high cost of air transport, especially that RJ has to make allowances for the fact that its cargo planes carry very little on their return leg.

"There could be wider scope for an Amman-based air-freight company as and when the international sanctions on Iraq are lifted," noted the industry source. But, he added, Iraqi Airways has always been very active in the field of cargo transport and the share of a new company in the field will be restricted in the long run, "although in the beginning business could be booming in view of Iraq's immediate needs."

Since the Jordanian produce export season is limited to seven months, any air freight company will have to have wider contacts and operations to pay for aircraft lease, which, under all international norms and practices, has to be for a minimum period of 12 months, the source noted.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks closed higher after thin trade which moved in a narrow range after Friday gains by the yen and Wall Street initially pushed prices up. The Nikkei average closed up 321.26 points or 1.39 per cent to 23,459.04.

SYDNEY — Scattered support pushed the market higher in quiet trade, with most interest focused on the \$374 million takeover bid for food group Petersville Sleigh. The All Ordinaries Index ended up 7.3 points at 1,539.2.

FRANKFURT — Shares drifted further into the summer doldrums, ending mixed in very light trade. The Dax Index ended up 1.77 at 1,646.53.

ZURICH — Shares closed firmer in quiet trading. Many investors were on vacation and the market lacked fresh direction. The SPI Index closed up 4.1 at 1,121.4.

PARIS — Stocks ended marginally higher after a session lacking any motivation. The CAC-40 Index closed 5.48 higher at 1,759.77.

LONDON — Shares closed at the day's highs after a late afternoon surge caused by dealers marking stock up as London lost some of its economic caution. The FTSE Index closed at 2,532.5, up 35.1.

NEW YORK — Blue chips remained slightly higher but were stuck in a tight range in early afternoon trading. The Dow was up for 2,985.

IMF cautions Israel about taking loans

TEL AVIV (AP) — An International Monetary Fund (IMF) report cautioned Israel Sunday about taking loans, saying it should first see whether its economic growth forecasts are borne out.

Banks of Israel officials have said that after reading the report they will decide whether to formally request a \$300 million IMF loan.

A five-man team spent 10 days in Israel and gave its report to the central bank's governor, Michael Bruno. It made no recommendation whether or not to give Israel the loan if it requests it.

"The government should be cautious in its approach to additional external and internal debt," the report said, adding that loans could be sought later if growth turned out to be high.

It said the government was too deeply involved in the economy and was dragging its feet in liberalizing it.

It said inflation remained the biggest danger, and required Israel to decrease its deficit.

The team also discussed the immigration of hundreds of thousands of new immigrants to the country and how the government should help absorb them.

Israel is also seeking \$10 billion in loan guarantees from the United States to underwrite borrowings to help cover housing and employment for the newcomers.

Israel wants the IMF loan to help cover its losses during the Gulf war. The Bank of Israel estimates that the war reduced tourism income by \$414 million and increased oil costs by \$317 million.

The IMF facility is designed to help countries weather short-term problems with their balance of payments, a broad measure of a country's trade and service exchange with the world.

Israel last considered approaching the IMF in 1985, when it adopted a major anti-inflation programme. Instead, it received a \$1.5 billion grant from the United States to help protect its reserves, bank officials said.

Exiled Greek royals owe Athens \$3 m in paid taxes

ATHENS (R) — Greece's royal family, in exile for more than 20 years, owes millions of dollars in unpaid taxes, Finance Minister Ioannis Palaiokrassas has said. King Constantine, 51, who fled into exile with his family in December 1967 after a military coup, owes the state 523 million drachmas (\$2.6 million) in unpaid taxes and accumulated interest, he said in reply to a question in parliament. Princess Sophia, now the queen of Spain, owes 29 million drachmas (\$150,000) and her sister, Princess Irene, owes 34 million drachmas (\$170,000), he said. Mr. Palaiokrassas has threatened in the past to confiscate the royal family's homes and property around Greece if they fail to pay up. Greece voted in December 1974 to abolish the monarchy.

Kuwaiti emir authorises borrowing \$33b to rebuild



Sheikh Jabbar Al Ahmad Al Sabah

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait said Monday it wanted to borrow \$33 billion on world money markets to rebuild its war-shattered economy and pay allied military bills for ending seven months of Iraqi occupation.

A decree by the emir, Sheikh Jabbar Al Ahmad Al Sabah, instructed the finance ministry to obtain the loans "in various international financial markets."

It is the first time the emirate — the Middle East's fourth largest oil exporter before the Gulf war and sitting on vast reserves of overseas investments — has had to knock at the doors of international institutions for cash.

Its oil exports stopped when Iraq invaded last Aug. 2. Hundreds of sabotaged wells are still ablaze and the oil dollars are not expected to start rolling in again until the end of the year.

Bankers said the emirate, sitting on about 10 per cent of the world's known oil reserves, would have little difficulty in raising the money, probably in stages.

But the amount surprised economic analysts who had predicted Kuwait would seek loans of about \$10 billion.

A Kuwaiti official said: "The figure of 10 billion dinars (\$33 billion) in foreign borrowing fits in well with the needs of the government."

A Kuwaiti banker told Reuters: "There will be no problem in the way of borrowing the money. Kuwait is a potentially rich country with no debt."

Abdullah Al Gabandi, managing director of the Kuwait Investment Authority in a recent interview.

Latest estimates suggest Kuwait will have to spend about \$20 billion on reconstruction. This figure excludes the cost of financing the military operations of the U.S.-led allies which drove out Iraqi forces at the end of February.

Finance Minister Nasser Abdullah Al Rodhan said in June the cost of financing the international force amounted to \$22 billion.

The emir's decree said: "The borrowing will be effected ... without restricting it to the issuing of treasury bills and bonds in the local market, by borrowing in various international financial markets."

The central bank last week resumed issuing treasury bonds suspended after the invasion.

The government, which expects a deficit of \$80 billion over the next five years, needs to meet the cost of reconstruction while awaiting the return of petrodollars through oil exports.

Kuwait was producing up to two million barrels of oil a day before the Iraqi invasion. Its current output of about 180,000 barrels a day is hardly enough to meet domestic needs.

Apart from rebuilding the economy and paying for the allied war effort, the emir also has to satisfy the needs of 700,000 Kuwaitis accustomed to a lavish cradle-to-grave welfare system.

Chemical-Manufacturers merger biggest in U.S. banking history

NEW YORK (AP) — Chemical Banking Corporation and Manufacturers Hanover Corporation Monday announced a stunning merger that will create the United States' second largest banking company with assets of \$135 billion.

The merger — the largest in U.S. banking history — had been negotiated secretly for two months and reflected the enormous pressure on U.S. banking companies to strengthen themselves in the face of the worst period for the industry since the great depression.

"We're just a much more powerful corporation going forward," Chemical Chairman Walter Shipley told a joint news conference with Manufacturers Chairman John McGillicuddy. Mr. Shipley said the union of the two banks will create "a much tougher competitor than what either one of us has been."

Under the agreement, expected to be completed by year-end, each share of Manufacturers will be exchanged for 1.14 shares of Chemical common stock. The new bank will be called Chemical Banking Corp. Executives of the two banks said the transaction's value exceeds \$2 billion.

Customers are not likely to see any dramatic changes but the Manufacturers name will fade into history. Several other large U.S. banks also have been negotiating mergers in recent weeks, most notably the NCBN Corp. and C and S-Sovran, two large southeast regional banking companies.

Chemical and Manufacturers, two of New York's oldest and best-known banks, said they planned to lay off about 6,200

employees out of a total of 45,000 employees of the merged companies. This is expected to help contribute to a savings of \$650 million in annual operating costs.

Chemical is the sixth largest banking company in the United States with assets of \$74.1 billion. Manufacturers Hanover ranks ninth with \$61.3 billion in assets. The largest banking company in the United States is Citicorp at nearly \$217 billion.

The merger announcement came before the New York stock market opened. In early trading Monday on the New York stock exchange, Chemical was up \$3 to \$26.75 while Manufacturers was up \$5 to \$26.75 after a delayed opening.

The deal was approved by the boards of directors of both banks Sunday and signed by the McGillicuddy and Mr. Shipley early Monday.

The merged organisation will occupy Manufacturers' current New York headquarters, the statement said.

The banks said Mr. McGillicuddy, 60, will serve as the

company's chairman and chief executive officer while Mr. Shipley, 55, will be president and chief operating officer. Mr. Shipley is expected to succeed Mr. McGillicuddy as chief executive officer Jan. 1, 1994, the statement said.

After the merger, the new Chemical plans to raise \$1.25 billion in common stock, both companies said. They also said they planned to take a \$550 million restructuring charge to cover the expense of the merger.

Ken Herz, a spokesman for Chemical, said the banks had been in merger talks since mid-May.

Representative Frank Annunzio, chairman of the House of Representatives Banking Subcommittee on Financial Institutions, said the merger "is just another sign of the troubled banking industry."

Major money centre banks, such as Manufacturers and Chemical, have been weighed down in recent years by problem loans

DUTY UNPAID CARS WANTED

1. 1988-1991 to be in good condition and should be subjected to full testing.
2. 1983-1985 to be in good condition and subject to testing.

Call tel: 822934

Furnished Villa For Rent

Um Utheina area. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths. Fully equipped kitchen. Maid room & bath, garage, small garden, central heating... etc. INTERESTED!!

Call: 621807 (9:00-12:30) 690342 (2:30-6:00)

Furnished Apartment For Rent

Deluxe 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom, apartment with large kitchen and open salon, sitting, dining hall. Independent entrance at street level. Separate central heating and telephone. Owner's personal modern furniture in excellent conditions. Available for rent after Aug. 15, 1991. Location Jerusalem Hotel area.

Please call owner at 603128

Luxury Villa For Rent In Abdoun

Comprising 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 sitting rooms, a study-room with bathroom, spacious salons, a kitchen fully equipped with electrical appliances. 2 maid's room with a bathroom for each, 4-car garage features, and a good security system. Well groomed garden. Annual rent JD 20,000

For further information 822517 or 827363

Two Duty Free Cars For Sale

- ★ Volvo 740 GL model 1988 colour metallic dark grey.
 - ★ Volvo 240 GL model 1988 colour red
- Sealed bids may be addressed to Admin. officer, Embassy of Sweden, P.O. Box 830536, Amman and should reach not later than July 31, 1991. For inspection of the cars, please phone no. 669177.

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

Think Big

Show: 5:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Ninja Turtles

Show: 3:30, 6:45 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOUN

The theatre and movies house are closed because of decoration works.

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

PRETTY WOMAN

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

REVENGE

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Indonesian army kills rebel chief

JAKARTA (R) — The Indonesian army has shot dead an Acheh rebel leader as he tried to flee to Malaysia, the Indonesian news agency, Antara, reported Monday.

The military shot Saleh Gedong, a commander of the Free Aceh Movement, in a raid in Lhokseumawe Sunday as he was travelling to neighbouring Malaysia to pass information to the rebel group's leader, Hasan Di Tiro, the agency quoted army spokesman Maryono as saying.

Mr. Di Tiro, whose group wants to split from Jakarta and set up an Islamic state, is based in Sweden and has representatives in Malaysia.

The slain rebel was carrying a Malaysian identity card, the spokesman said.

Several Acheh rebels have fled to Malaysia recently after being hunted by the military, and by villagers who blame them for the violence in the northern Indonesian province.

The Achehese want to get back stability in the region so they can enjoy the fruits of development," Mr. Maryono said.

A major reason behind the year-and-a-half old rebellion, in which hundreds are believed to have been killed, was that little of the province's wealth was being spent at home, local sources have said.

Seven rebels were killed in military raids earlier this month. Several others have been jailed.

Meanwhile, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas appealed Monday to six countries claiming a cluster of islands in the South China Sea to set aside territorial demands and decide how to share the area's natural resources.

Mr. Alatas, speaking in the Indonesian city of Bandung at the opening of the first conference of all claimants to the disputed is-

lands, advised the meeting against concentrations on the territorial demands.

"Rather, realising as we all do that the South China Sea does contain factors of inherent controversy, our attention and efforts should continue to be directed towards finding ways to transform potential sources of conflict into constructive forms of cooperation for mutual benefit," he said.

Chinese delegation leader Wang Ying Fan told reporters Peking would not make any concessions on its claim.

"We are ready to contribute for the cooperation and for the maintenance of peace in this area. We would be quite ready for discussions for joint development," said Mr. Wang, director of the Chinese Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Department.

"But our stand on sovereignty is very firm," Mr. Wang said.

Nations claiming the Spratlys — China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam and the Philippines — are attending the meeting which Jakarta-based diplomats said was a significant step forward from the first one.

The diplomats said the next round of talks could involve maritime powers in the region including the Soviet Union.

The first talks, held on the Indonesian island of Bali in January last year, were limited to members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) — Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Singapore.

One diplomat said Indonesia's objective in organising the talks was to prevent the rise of another conflict to replace Cambodia in the region and to work towards a security arrangement among the states on the shores of the South China Sea.

Hun Sen makes first visit to China

PEKING (R) — Phnom Penh government leader Hun Sen arrived in Peking Monday for a meeting of rival Cambodian factions, the first public visit to China by an official of the Vietnamese-backed administration.

China supports Mr. Hun Sen's most powerful guerrilla enemies, the radical Khmer Rouge, but appears to have adopted the role of peacemaker by providing a venue for a gathering of Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC) and welcoming Mr. Hun Sen.

The SNC is composed of the Phnom Penh government, the Khmer Rouge and two smaller non-Communist guerrilla groups and is central to a United Nations plan to end 12 years of war in Cambodia.

Seoul offers North joint celebration of liberation

SEOUL (R) — South Korea offered Monday to ease rivalry with the Communist North by jointly hosting events next month to commemorate Korean liberation from Japanese rule 46 years ago.

Unification Minister Choi Ho-Jong suggested working level talks start next week to work out details for the commemorative events, including cross-border marches, prayer meetings and academic talks on unification.

At Pyongyang, still technically at war with Seoul since their 1950-53 conflict, acceptance of a Southern proposal, it would be the first time the divided nations have jointly celebrated Korea's independence from the 1910-45 Japanese colonial rule.

Last week, the South accepted a Northern proposal to resume prime ministerial talks on Aug. 27 after a seven-month break.

The prime ministers of North and South Korea last met in Seoul in December for the third round in a series begun last September. The talks were the highest inter-Korean dialogue since the peninsula was split into two hostile halves in 1945.

"The international community today is washed with a tide of reconciliation and openness that brought down the cold war regime," Mr. Choi said in a televised statement Monday.

"It is the ardent desire of our 70 million compatriots, therefore, to make best use of this global environment to ease tension and advance reconciliation," he said.

Mr. Choi proposed the two Koreas hold a grand unification gala from Aug. 15 to 31, and suggested preparatory talks be held in the border village of Panmunjom from July 26 to 30.

"We believe it is feasible for both the South and North to jointly sponsor the grand unification gala beginning with a memorial event on Aug. 15 in Panmunjom in commemoration of Liberation Day," he said.

He also suggested a cross-country pilgrimage, unification symposium in Seoul and Pyongyang, prayer meetings on the summits of Mount Paektu in the North and Mount Halla in the South and a unification cultural festival at the border.

"We believe it would be practicable for about 2,000 people from the South and the North and the Korean communities abroad to participate in the proposed grand unification gala," he said.

The anniversary of the end of Japanese rule is an emotional occasion for both North and South that focuses attention on the peninsula's division.

Last year both Koreas, jockeying for maximum propaganda value, proposed a limited opening of their tightly sealed border to allow people from either side to cross freely.

Platoon pulls parade prank on Cresson

PARIS (AP) — Military cadets at a prestigious French academy turned an annual tradition into a prank on France's new premier, Edith Cresson. The cadets, from the elite Ecole Polytechnique, each wore a sprig of watercress — "Cresson" in French — in their sashes as they marched down the Champs-Elysees in the annual Bastille Day parade. By tradition, the cadets each year come up with a new gag for the parade, which celebrates the beginning of the French Revolution in 1789.

Mrs. Cresson, France's first woman premier, stood at the parade's reviewing stand beside President Francois Mitterrand. Sources close to the premier said they "were amused."

Loren tops Legion of Honour list

PARIS (AP) — Actress Sophia Loren topped the Bastille Day list of 50 people named to or elevated within the prestigious Legion of Honour. Her name was published in Journal Officiel Sunday, the 202nd anniversary of the fall of the Bastille Prison. Admission to the Legion of Honour, established by Napoleon in 1802, is awarded for long and distinguished public service, either military or civilian. The Rome-born Loren, 56, known for her sultry roles in numerous Hollywood and Italian films over a 30-year career, was awarded the rank of Chevalier, the lowest grade in the prestigious order.

Watch out for that bag

LONDON (AP) — The "media bag" issued to journalists covering the economic summit exactly resembles in shape and design a bag on a poster distributed throughout the London subway which warns: "Bombs be alert." The only difference is that the media bag is gray and the poster bag is blue. Anyone seeing an unattended bag is warned to leave it alone and call for help. The media bag, marked "London Economic Summit 1991" under a globe and an "S" for the summit logo in red, blue and black, contains enough reading material about London, Britain and who's who at the summit to keep a reporter busy for the next three days without bothering about who's saying what at the summit itself.

Rabbis' curses to be outlawed

RABBIS who scare followers by imprecating rival political parties are now expected to face earthly punishment, in addition to any possible celestial wrath. The Israeli cabinet has approved an amendment to the Knesset elections law, stating that "curses and excommunication" will now constitute unlawful threats and violators will be subject to up to five years of imprisonment. The amendment still requires Knesset approval this week before becoming law. In the last election, rabbis of different religious parties, notably Shas, appeared on television to invoke curses against those who voted for their rivals. With elections possibly on the horizon, secular cabinet ministers decided they did not want to take any chances and risk granting their religious rivals an unfair, if unholy, advantage. However, cabinet-level officials scratched their heads, yesterday. According to the new proposed law, uttered blessings in favour of political parties will also be subject to the same period of incarceration — the Jerusalem Post.

Couple wed in jail gets unexpected honeymoon

LINCOLN, Nebraska (AP) — Marjorie and Robert Reichard were married in jail, but they got an unexpected honeymoon on the outside because of a paperwork mix-up. "It was a dream come true," Mrs. Reichard said. "The lord was giving us a week. I was so thankful we got the time to spend together." The two were wed on June 26 in Lancaster County Jail, where Mr. Reichard was in custody on a fugitive-from-justice charge from Cape Girardeau, for allegedly violating probation. Just hours after the wedding, he was released because of the mix-up. The mistake was discovered seven days later. The sheriff's office contacted Mr. Reichard, who returned to court voluntarily and went back to Missouri on July 3 to face the charge.

Minister held in Mali after coup bid

BAMAKO (R) — A coup attempt in Mali was foiled Monday and the ringleader detained, official sources said.

They named him as Captain Lamine Diabira, the territorial administration (interior) minister.

Capt. Diabira was among a group of officers which toppled President Moussa Traore on March 26 after pro-democracy riots in which up to 200 people were killed.

A Transitional People's Salvation Committee (TPSC), composed of soldiers and civilians and headed by Lieutenant-Colonel Amadou Toure, took power and promised early elections.

Few details of Monday's alleged coup plot were immediately known. But the official sources said some soldiers in the key army base at Kati, 15 kilometres from Bamako, were also involved.

Shops and offices closed in Bamako as the news spread through this poor West African country of eight million people.

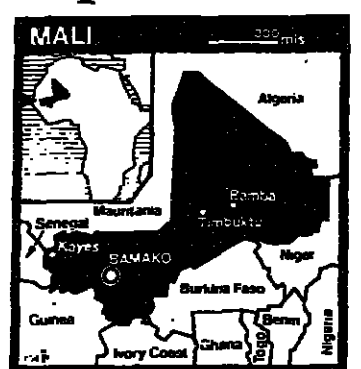
Preparatory work on Mali's national political conference was suspended. It was due to start on July 29.

When the TPSC seized power, Col. Toure, a 42-year-old paratrooper officer, promised early elections after the conference, which was intended to chart a democratic future. He pledged to return power to elected civilians by January next year.

But there was soon evidence of

tensions within the 25-strong ruling council.

Two influential members, Lieutenant-Colonel Oumar Diakalo and Anatole Sangare, were arrested in June and are still detained.



Map of Mali showing the location of Bamako and the military base at Kati.

Sri Lankan troops fight rebels to relieve army camp

COLOMBO (R) — Troops landed by sea in northern Sri Lanka and supported from the air were fighting through rebel resistance toward an army camp besieged by separatist Tamil guerrillas, military sources said Monday.

At least 140 Tamil rebels and 24 soldiers have died in fighting for the strategic camp at Elephant Pass which has been under guerrilla attack since last Wednesday.

The military sources said troops arrived by landing craft Sunday at Chundikulam Beach about 12 kilometres east of Elephant Pass which links Jaffna peninsula, the rebel stronghold, with the rest of Sri Lanka.

Four soldiers were killed in the amphibious landing, the sources said. The extent of the fighting and casualties could not be verified from rebel sources.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), fighting for a separate homeland in the north and east of Sri Lanka, have launched a strong assault on Elephant Pass with mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire.

The camp was surrounded by an estimated 500 rebels firing from bunkers as close as 200 metres, military sources said.

In fighting Sunday, one soldier carrying a grenade was killed when he jumped into a bulldozer filled with explosives the rebels were using to breach the camp defences. The vehicle exploded with the soldier inside, the sources said.

Accounting for rebel losses a military officer in Colombo said: "Camp commandant Major Sanath Karunaratne said the figure of 140 dead rebels came from a count of the bodies lying on all four sides of the camp and from rebel radio intercepts."

He said Maj. Karunaratne's battalion from the army's 6th Sinha Regiment, pinned down inside the camp, was defending the base using rocket-propelled grenades, recoilless rifles and other weapons.

Australian human rights team opens probe in China

PEKING (R) — An Australian human rights delegation said its unprecedented trip to China is an important concession by Peking, which has previously blasted foreign criticism of its human rights record as interference.

But Chris Schacht, leader of the team that began its first full day Monday, told a news conference the group was unlikely to win the release of prisoners or secure legal improvements in China.

"I'm not at all of the view that we're here as some sort of super-investigative team, going around getting prisoners released from jail, getting the laws changed, getting the whole process changed," Mr. Schacht, a member of parliament for the Australian Labour Party, said after arriving Sunday.

"I believe the real advantage of this delegation is that we're beginning a dialogue with the Chinese who have reluctantly made a concession that a country can send a delegation that is going to talk about human rights," he said.

He noted that China had previously flatly refused any concession on that point.

Western criticism of China for ordering troops to kill unarmed civilians to crush pro-democracy protests two years ago around Tiananmen Square was angrily rejected by Peking as interference in its internal affairs.

China now accuses the West of trying to subvert socialism through "peaceful evolution" by exporting ideas of democracy that prize the individual over the state.

It maintains that economic rights and the right to life in an agricultural country still struggling to feed its huge population are the basis of all human rights.

The delegation of legal and human rights experts, politicians, diplomats and scholars will spend 12 days in China visiting Peking, Chengdu, Shanghai and Lhasa in Tibet. It has been guaranteed entry to two prisons and interviews with lawyers involved in human rights cases.

On Monday it was scheduled to meet state security officials and government prosecutors in Peking.

Floods strike new areas in China; death toll rises

NANKING, China (AP) — Floods struck new areas of China and the death toll rose to nearly 1,700, reports said Monday, as much of the country endured what the government called its worst flooding in a century.

New storms hit Hubei and Hunan provinces in central China, Guizhou province in the south and the Daxing Anling Forest in the northeast, the newspaper China Daily said.

Still, the threat of new disasters seemed to ease in other areas.

Residents in the Yangtze River valley in east China, battered by storms over the past weeks, remained on alert as the river and its tributaries swelled from rain runoff.

However, there was little new rainfall, and the Yangtze River crest passed Nanking without causing significant new flooding. The crest headed for Zhenjiang, the next major city downstream.

In Anhui and Jiangsu provinces in the river valley, residents in hundreds of small villages and towns reinforced dirt and stone embankments holding back rivers and lakes. Tens of thousands of peasants whose homes were flooded have been living on the dikes, the highest land around, and surviving on government-distributed biscuits and soda water.

In most places, the dikes have been built up over the centuries. As the rivers rose from silt, peasants raised the dikes, until the dikes and rivers towered over the surrounding countryside.

The industrial cities of Nanking, Zhenjiang, Changzhou, Suzhou and Shanghai all raised barriers in recent days, preparing for the Yangtze River to reach a new crest.

The river, Asia's longest, peaked in Nanking Sunday at 9.69 metres above sea level, lower than had been expected, according to Chen Yingchen, a city water engineer.

Mr. Chen said the Yangtze and other rivers around Nanking were beginning to fall gradually and no new flooding was expected unless heavy rains resume.

"The situation is much better. I don't want to use the word safe," Mr. Chen said, adding that forecasts were for only light rain in coming days.

The Chu and Huai Rivers, north of the Yangtze, also crested safely.

Officials in Suzhou said workers built dikes around the ancient city and set up pumping stations to drain flood waters into rural areas.

Authorities were unable to provide a comprehensive death toll, but partial figures published by the China Daily brought the total to at least 1,697. Poor communications with disaster-stricken areas often means Chinese death tolls are low.

Fractional Yugoslavia now vying for Tito's things

BISTRA, Yugoslavia (AP) — Josip Broz Tito devoted his life to keeping Yugoslavia together. Now his countrymen are battling for secession — and some of Tito's old timonies.

The fleet of rare automobiles is part of the personal empire of villas, rail cars and exotic animals amassed by the former Communist ruler, who has balanced Yugoslavia between the Soviet Bloc and the West for 35 years until his death in 1980.

The quests for independence by the Republics of Slovenia and Croatia, however, have set off quarrels over the trappings of Tito's power.

"In Yugoslavia at the moment, symbolic things have a high value," said Marjan Vidmar, director of the Bistra Technical Museum near the Slovene capital of Ljubljana.

The museum is refusing to return to Belgrade 16 of Tito's cars it restored and displayed for eight years. The cars, including a 1952 Rolls Royce silver wealth convertible valued at \$1 million, came from Belgrade's Military Museum and the Tito Memorial Centre.

"We have restored or repaired all of these cars when the authorities in Belgrade didn't care enough about them, now they want them back," said Mr. Vidmar.

Also in the Bistra collection is a black 1924 Mercedes, originally a gift from Adolf Hitler to Ante Pavelic, head of Croatia's Nazi puppet state during World War II.

A 1937 Packard 12 was presented to Tito by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin before the nations

split over Communist ideology in 1948.

When the Soviet relations with Tito warmed in 1955, he received another car — a 6.5-ton Soviet Zis limo from Nikita Khrushchev.

The Mercedes, Packard and Zis all have windows made of 7-millimetre-thick bulletproof glass.

"These cars have become part of Slovenia's cultural heritage," said Andrej Capuder, Slovenia's minister of culture.

Tito also kept hunting lodges, seaside retreats and villas in all six Yugoslav republics. The property and cars together are estimated to be worth millions of dollars.

The federal government, strapped for cash, has proposed selling off to Western railroad companies the so-called "blue train" Tito used to travel through Yugoslavia.

But the army, once led by Tito, would likely oppose any such plan.

"The memory of Tito is sacred to many people in Belgrade. The army particularly still lives in the Communist era," said Vidmar.

Tito's villas and residences have been under republican control since his death. His residence on the Adriatic Isle of Brioni in Croatia also was his private safari park stocked with African animals. Many of the animals were gifts from fellow members of the Non-Aligned Movement, which sought to keep out of the former cold war struggles.

Everything may go, said one Slovene official on condition of anonymity, "all those hunting trophies, furniture, maybe even the giraffes and zebras."

Mahathir marks 10 years in power stronger than ever

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad marks his 10th year in power Tuesday, a decade in which he has transformed not only Malaysia's politics and economy but his own personal standing.

"Mahathir has gone from being one of the most hated prime ministers in Malaysia to the most admired and respected," said political analyst Michael Yeoh. "He has left an imprint which is more lasting than any of his predecessors."

Questions remain about the health of the 65-year-old Mahathir, who suffered a heart attack in 1988, but politically he appears stronger than ever after surviving several challenges to his rule.

Mr. Mahathir, who entered politics after qualifying as a doctor, became Malaysia's fourth prime minister on July 16, 1981, succeeding Hussein Onn who stepped down for health reasons.

Once sacked from the ruling United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) for challenging its leadership, he took office promising to uplift the lot of Malaysians and Malays.

But he found himself battling foes within and without, surviving through political skill while, at times, keeping an iron grip on his multi-racial country of 18 million people.

In foreign policy, Mr. Mahathir often questioned Western powers about their policies.

He ordered a "buy British last" policy in 1982, angered at what he felt was the arrogance of Britain and other Western nations towards developing nations, but went on to chair the summit of Commonwealth nations in 1989.

He urged Malaysians to "look east" and follow Japanese management methods and got Malaysia elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council in 1989-1990.

Since December, he has solicited support for an East Asian Economic grouping as a counter to possible trade blocs emerging in North America and the European Community (EC).

At home, some of his policies have provoked sharp criticism.

He tried to curb the monarchy's powers and had six judges sacked in 1988, a year after detaining over 100 government critics in order to quell racial tension.

"All these must feature in the final judgment of his premiership," opposition leader Lim Kit Siang said. "He has tried to set new directions for the country, including changes which have shaken the basis of the nation."

Mr. Mahathir's victory in last October's general elections showed that most Malaysians had



Mahathir Mohammad

Mr. Mahathir's victory silenced his detractors who had said that Malays, who dominate Malaysian politics but lag behind ethnic Chinese economically, had become more divided under Mr. Mahathir's rule.

In the past decade, two of Malaysia's major problems — Communist insurgency and Islamic fundamentalism — have faded.

But it was during his rule that two states, staunchly Islamic Kelantan and Christian-led Sabah, fell into opposition hands.

In recent months, he has offered policies to reshape Malaysia's economy.

In March he unveiled a plan to turn the country into a developed nation by the year 2020, and followed up in recent weeks with the 1991-2000 national development policy.

The policy is a blueprint to replace the controversial 1971-1990 new economic policy which sought to give Malays a larger slice of the economy following race riots in 1969.

Under Mr. Mahathir, Malaysia's economy has moved away from being dependent on commodities and is now booming.

"He is a man consumed with a sense of mission to transform Malaysia," said an industrialist who has known Mr. Mahathir for many years.

